THE

CRITICAL REVIEW.

For the Month of *October*, 1782.

An Eſſay on Epic Poetry. By William Hayley, Eſq. 4to. 10*s.* 6*d. ſewed.* Dodſley.

MR. Hayley having reſumed the pen, we, with pleaſure, enter on the taſk of reviewing his production.—If only ſuch authors appeared, what delightful travelling it would be through the regions of literature! But a genius like his ſeldom ſprings up above once in a century: ſuch exalted ſouls are the

'rari nantes in gurgite vaſto.'

Our readers are already acquainted with the poetical powers of Mr. Hayley, who having, in his other performances, delivered his ſentiments concerning Hiſtory and Painting, to complete his ſplendid circle proceeds, in the work before us, to an illuſtration of his favourite art. We could have wiſhed, that he had not confined himſelf to the conſideration of the *Epic*, but given us alſo his remarks on every other ſpecies of poetry: this, however, we hope, is reſerved for ſome future eſſay; in the mean time let us ſit down with thankfulneſs to the feaſt before us.

The epiſtles are addreſſed to Mr. Maſon, for whom the author ſeems to expreſs the moſt friendly attachment, and to hold in the higheſt degree of eſtimation, calling him the

'Harmonious Chief of Britain's living choir.'

Though we are not among thoſe, and many ſuch there are, who wiſh to depreciate the poetical merit of Mr. Maſon, we cannot but conſider the exalted ſituation in which Mr. Hayley has placed him as an over-ſtrained compliment, being of opinion that our author himſelf has a ſuperior title to the rank which he has beſtowed on his friend.—The deſign of this poem, as Mr. Hayley informs us, is principally to remove thoſe numerous prejudices which obſtruct the cultivation of Epic writing. The ſubjects of the firſt epiſtle are the 'Origin of Poetry.—Honours paid to its infancy.—Homer the firſt poet remaining.—Difficulty of the queſtion, why he had no ſucceſſor in Greece.—Remark of a celebrated writer, that as criticiſm flouriſhes poetry declines.—Defence of critics—Danger of a bigoted acquieſcence in critical ſyſtems—and of a poet's criticiſing his own works.—Advantages of friendſhip and ſtudy of the higher poets.' This is all that the argument, as it is called, of the firſt epiſtle, and from which the above is extracted, promiſes to the reader, who, notwithſtanding, will find much more to gratify his taſte: he will meet with—a beautiful deſcription of poetry, its powers, and its charms—a compariſon of it with painting, ſhewing its advantages over the ſiſter art—a fine character of Boileau—with other paſſages that will afford him both entertainment and inſtruction.

In a work of this kind, and by ſuch a writer, where every part is finiſhed with elegance, correctneſs, and preciſion, it is not eaſy to point out paſſages of ſuperior merit. The following lines are, perhaps, ſome of the beſt in this epiſtle.

'Though taſte refin'd to modern verſe deny
The hacknied pageants of the Pagan ſky,
Their ſinking radiance ſtill the canvaſs warms,
Painting ſtill glories in their graceful forms;
Nor canſt thou envy, if the world agree
To grant thy ſiſter claims denied to thee;
For thee, the happier art! the elder-born!
Superior rights and dearer charms adorn:
Confin'd ſhe catches, with obſervance keen,
Her ſingle moment of the changeful ſcene;
But thou, endu'd with energy ſublime,
Unqueſtion'd arbiter of ſpace and time!
Canſt join the diſtant, the unknown create,
And, while exiſtence yields thee all her ſtate,
On the aſtoniſh'd mind profuſely pour
Myriads of forms, that fancy muſt adore.
Yet of thy boundleſs power the deareſt part
Is firm poſſeſſion of the feeling heart;

No

No progeny of chance, by labour taught,
No ſlow-form'd creature of ſcholaſtic thought,
The child of paſſion thou! thy lyre ſhe ſtrung,
To her parental notes ſhe tun'd thy tongue;
Gave thee her boldeſt ſwell, her ſofteſt tone,
And made the compaſs of her voice thy own.'

Not inferior to theſe is the character of Boileau, as thus delineated by our poet.

'What laws of poeſy can learning ſhew
Above the critic ſong of ſage Deſpreaux?
His fancy elegant, his judgment nice,
His method eaſy, and his ſtyle conciſe;
The bard of Reaſon, with her vigour fraught,
Her pureſt doctrine he divinely taught:
Nor taught in vain! His precept clear and chaſte
Reform'd the errors of corrupted taſte;
And French Imagination, who was bit
By that tarantula, diſtorted Wit,
Ceaſing her antic gambols to rehearſe,
Bleſt the pure magic of his healing verſe:
With his loud fame applauding Europe rung,
And his juſt praiſe a rival poet ſung.
Yet, had this friend of verſe-devoted youth,
This tuneful teacher of poetic truth,
Had he but chanc'd his doctrine to diffuſe
Ere Milton commun'd with his ſacred Muſe;
And could that Engliſh, ſelf-dependant ſoul,
Born with ſuch energy as mocks controul,
Could his high ſpirit, with ſubmiſſive awe,
Have ſtoop'd to liſten to a Gallic law;
His hallow'd ſubject, by that law forbid,
Might ſtill have laid in ſilent darkneſs hid,
And, this bright ſun, not riſing in our ſphere,
Homer had wanted ſtill his true compeer.'

The ſecond epiſtle contains the characters of the ancient poets, Homer, Apollonius Rhodius, Virgil, and Lucan. In the laſt of theſe, which are all finely drawn, our author has done juſtice to a poet, whom modern criticiſm has too often treated with unmerited contempt and ſeverity, and whom our amiable friend of freedom thus vindicates.

'See daring Lucan for that wreath contend,
Which Freedom twines for her poetic friend.
'Tis thine, thou bold but injur'd bard, 'tis thine!
Tho' Critic ſpleen inſult thy rougher line;
Tho' wrong'd thy genius, and thy name miſplac'd
By vain diſtinctions of faſtidious Taſte;
Indignant Freedom, with juſt anger fir'd,
Shall guard the poet whom herſelf inſpir'd.

What tho' thy early, uncorrected page
Betrays ſome marks of a degenerate age;
Tho' many a tumid point thy verſe contains,
Like warts projecting from Herculean veins;
Tho' like thy Cato thy ſtern Muſe appear,
Her manners rigid, and her frown auſtere;
Like him, ſtill breathing Freedom's genuine flame,
Juſtice her idol, Public Good her aim,
Well ſhe ſupplies her want of ſofter art
By all the ſterling treaſures of the heart;
By Energy, from Independance caught,
And the free vigour of unborrow'd Thought.
Thou Bard moſt injur'd by malicious fate,
Could not thy blood appeaſe a tyrant's hate?
Muſt he, ſtill gall'd by thy poetic claim,
With falſehood perſecute thy moral fame?
Shall Hiſtory's pen, to aid his vengeance won,
Brand thee, brave Spirit, as an impious ſon,
Who meanly fear'd to yield his vital flood,
And ſought his ſafety by a parent's blood?
Baſe calumny, at which Belief muſt halt,
And blind Credulity herſelf revolt.
Could that firm youth become ſo vile a ſlave,
Whoſe voice new energy to virtue gave;
Whoſe Stoic ſoul all abject thoughts abhorr'd,
And own'd no ſordid paſſion as its lord;
Who in the trying hour of mortal pain,
While life was ebbing from his open vein,
Alike unconſcious of remorſe and fear,
His heart unſhaken, and his ſenſes clear,
Smil'd on his doom, and, like the fabled bird
Whoſe muſic from Meander's bank was heard,
Form'd into tuneful notes his parting breath,
And ſung th' approaches of undreaded death?
Riſe, thou wrong'd bard, above Detraction's reach,
Whoſe arts in vain thy various worth impeach,
Enjoy that fame thy ſpirit knew to prize,
And view'd ſo fondly with prophetic eyes.
Tho' the nice critic of faſtidious France
Survey they ſong with many a ſcornful glance,
And as a Goth the kinder judge accuſe,
Who with their great Corneille commends thy Muſe,
Let Britain, eager as the Leſbian ſtate
To ſhield thy Pompey from the wrongs of Fate,
To thee with pride a fond attachment ſhew,
Thou bard of Freedom, tho' the world's thy foe.'

In the third epiſtle, after a ſhort ſketch of the Northern and Provençal poetry, Mr. Hayley characteriſes the moſt diſtinguiſhed epic poets of Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, and England.

England. The ſeveral beauties and faults of Dante, Triſſino, Boccacio, Taſſo, Taſſoni, Lope de Vega, Ercilla, Camoëns *, Voltaire, Boccage; and laſtly, thoſe of our own epic writers are amply diſcuſſed. The lines on the immortal Milton, may ſerve as a ſpecimen of Mr. Hayley's taſte and judgment.

'Apart, and on a ſacred hill retir'd,
Beyond all mortal inſpiration fir'd,
The mighty Milton ſits—an hoſt around
Of liſt'ning angels guard the holy ground;
Amaz'd they ſee a human form aſpire
To graſp with daring hand a ſeraph's lyre,
Inly irradiate with celeſtial beams,
Attempt thoſe high, thoſe ſoul-ſubduing themes,
(Which humbler denizens of heaven decline)
And celebrate, with ſanctity divine,
The ſtarry field from warring angels won,
And God triumphant in his victor Son.
Nor leſs the wonder, and the ſweet delight,
His milder ſcenes and ſofter notes excite,
When at his bidding Eden's blooming grove
Breathes the rich ſweets of innocence and love.
With ſuch pure joy as our forefather knew
When Raphael, heavenly gueſt, firſt met his view,
And our glad ſire, within his bliſsful bower,
Drank the pure converſe of th' ætherial power,
Round the bleſt bard his raptur'd audience throng,
And feel their ſouls imparadis'd in ſong.'

In the fourth epiſtle Mr. Hayley makes ſome judicious remarks on the ſuppoſed parſimony of nature in beſtowing poetic genius, and exemplifies the evils and advantages of poetry in the fate of different poets. In this part of the work our author ſeems to quit his original ſubject, and to expatiate in a wider field; a liberty which the freedom of epiſtolary writing may perhaps fairly intitle him to: and this is, in conſequence of his excurſion, the moſt agreeable and entertaining part of the poem. The following lines, on the force of prejudice, are not leſs juſt than elegant and poetical.

'O Prejudice! thou bane of arts, thou peſt,
Whoſe ruffian powers the free-born ſoul arreſt;
Thou who, dethroning Reaſon, dar'ſt to frame
And iſſue thy proud laws beneath her name;
Thou coaſter on the intellectual deep,
Ordering each timid bark thy courſe to keep;
Who, leſt ſome daring mind beyond thee ſteer,
Haſt rais'd, to vouch thy vanity and fear,

* Mr. Hayley juſtly obſerves, that 'the epic powers of Camoëns have received due honour in our language, by the elegant and ſpirited tranſlation of Mr. Mickle.'

Herculean pillars where thy ſail was furl'd,
And nam'd thy bounds the Limits of the World.
Thou braggart, Prejudice, how oft thy breath
Has doom'd young Genius to the ſhades of death!
How often has thy voice, with brutal fire,
Forbidden Female hands to touch the lyre,
Deny'd to Woman, Nature's fav'rite child,
The right to enter Fancy's op'ning wild!
Bleſt be this ſmiling hour, when Britain ſees
Her fair-ones cancel ſuch abſurd decrees,
In one harmonious group, with graceful ſcorn,
Spring o'er the pedant's fence of wither'd thorn,
And reach Parnaſſian heights, where, laurel-crown'd,
This ſofter quire the notes of triumph ſound;
Where Seward, leader of the lovely train,
Pours o'er heroic tombs her potent ſtrain;
Potent to ſooth the honour'd dead, and dart
Congenial virtue through each panting heart;
Potent thro' ſpirits maſculine to ſpread
Poetic jealouſy and envious dread;
If Love and Envy could in union reſt,
And rule with blended ſway a poet's breaſt;
The bards of Britain, with unjaundic'd eyes,
Will glory to behold ſuch rivals riſe.'

Our author's reflections on the fate of poor Chatterton, are equally beautiful and pathetic.

'Oh, ill-ſtarr'd youth, whom Nature form'd, in vain,
With powers on Pindus' ſplendid height to reign!
O dread example of what pangs await
Young Genius ſtruggling with malignant Fate!
What could the Muſe, who fir'd thy infant frame
With the rich promiſe of poetic fame;
Who taught thy hand its magic art to hide,
And mock the inſolence of critic pride;
What could her unavailing cares oppoſe,
To ſave her darling from his deſperate foes;
From preſſing Want's calamitous controul
And Pride, the fever of the ardent ſoul?
Ah ſee, too conſcious of her failing power,
She quits her nurſling in his deathful hour!
In a chill room, within whoſe wretched wall
No cheering voice replies to Miſery's call;
Near a vile bed, too crazy to ſuſtain
Misfortune's waſting limbs, convuls'd with pain,
On the bare floor, with heaven-directed eyes,
The hapleſs youth in ſpeechleſs horror lies!
The pois'nous vial, by diſtraction drain'd,
Rolls from his hand, in wild contortion ſtrain'd:

Pale

Pale with life-waſting pangs, its dire effect,
And ſtung to madneſs by the world's neglect,
He, in abhorrence of the dangerous art,
Once the dear idol of his glowing heart,
Tears from his harp the vain deteſted wires,
And in the frenzy of deſpair expires !'

In this little extract, the deſcription of the dying youth, and the beautiful image of his *tearing the wires* from his *harp*, breathe the true ſpirit of poetry.

After this melancholy recital, our author, to raiſe the ſpirits of his drooping brethren, calls to their minds the honours which Arioſto received from the emperor Charles; and the liberal rewards beſtow'd by his countrymen on the celebrated Lope de Vega, and the independent ſituation of Pope.

'For him the hands of jarring faction join
To keep their tribute on his Homer's ſhrine.
Proud of the frank reward his talents find,
And nobly conſcious of no venal mind,
With the juſt world his fair account he clears,
And owes no debt to princes or to peers.'

The elegant compliment, in the paſſage ſubjoined, which we cannot with-hold from our readers, is worthy of him who gives and of him who receives the deſerved tribute.

'O thou bright Spirit, whom the Aſian muſe
Had fondly ſteep'd in all her fragrant dews,
And o'er whoſe early ſong, that mental feaſt,
She breath'd the ſweetneſs of the rifled Eaſt,
Since independant Honour's high controul
Detach'd from Poeſy thy ardent ſoul,
To ſeek with better hopes Perſuaſion's ſeat,
Bleſt be thoſe hopes, and happy that retreat!
Which with regret all Britiſh bards muſt ſee,
And mourn a brother loſt, in loſing thee.'

Whilſt our author conſiders the fate, ſituation, and circumſtances of other poets, he ſlides inſenſibly into ſome ſerious meditation on his own; and, after taking the liberty of making a ſpeech for his mother, diſſuading him from the practice of poetry, he breaks out into a fine deſcription of her parental care and tenderneſs, which is perhaps equal to any thing in modern poetry.

'O thou fond ſpirit, who with pride haſt ſmil'd,
And frown'd with fear, on thy poetic child,
Pleas'd, yet alarm'd, when in his boyiſh time
He ſigh'd in numbers, or he laugh'd in rhyme;
While thy kind cautions warn'd him to beware
Of penury, the bard's perpetual ſnare;

Marking the early temper of his ſoul,
Careleſs of wealth, nor fit for baſe controul:
Thou tender ſaint, to whom he owes much more
Than ever child to parent ow'd before,
In life's firſt ſeaſon, when the fever's flame
Shrunk to deformity his ſhrivell'd frame,
And turn'd each fairer image in his brain
To blank confuſion and her crazy train,
'Twas thine, with conſtant love, thro' ling'ring years,
To bathe thy idiot orphan in thy tears;
Day after day, and night ſucceeding night,
To turn inceſſant to the hideous ſight,
And frequent watch, if haply at thy view
Departed Reaſon might not dawn anew.
Tho' medicinal art, with pitying care
Could lend no aid to ſave thee from deſpair,
Thy fond maternal heart adher'd to hope and prayer:
Nor pray'd in vain; thy child from Pow'rs above
Receiv'd the ſenſe to feel and bleſs thy love;
O might he thence receive the happy ſkill,
And force proportion'd to his ardent will,
With truth's unfading radiance to emblaze
Thy virtues, worthy of immortal praiſe!
'Nature, who deck'd thy form with Beauty's flowers,
Exhauſted on thy ſoul her finer powers;
Taught it with all her energy to feel
Love's melting ſoftneſs, Friendſhip's fervid zeal,
The generous purpoſe, and the active thought,
With Charity's diffuſive ſpirit fraught;
There all the beſt of mental gifts ſhe plac'd,
Vigor of judgment, purity of taſte,
Superior parts without their ſpleenful leaven,
Kindneſs to earth, and confidence in Heaven.
'While my fond thoughts o'er all thy merits roll,
Thy praiſe thus guſhes from my filial ſoul;
Nor will the Public with harſh rigor blame
This my juſt homage to thy honour'd name;
To pleaſe that Public, if to pleaſe be mine,
Thy Virtues train'd me—let the praiſe be thine.'

In the fifth and laſt epiſtle, Mr. Hayley reverts to his ſubject, and delivers his ſentiments with regard to ſupernatural agency in epic poems; and cenſures the abſurdity of all ſyſtems, holding, in oppoſition to them, that the epic province is not yet exhauſted. He is of opinion therefore that Engliſh hiſtory contains the moſt proper and intereſting ſubjects for a national epic poem, which being the great deſideratum in Engliſh literature, he wiſhes to ſee ſupplied (but which probably will never happen) by the genius of Mr. Maſon.

The poem concludes thus:

'While, led by Fancy through her wide domain,
Our ſteps advance around her Epic plain;
While we ſurvey each laurel that it bore,
And every confine of the realm explore,
See Liberty, array'd in light ſerene,
Pours her rich luſtre o'er th' expanding ſcene!
Thee, Maſon, thee ſhe views with fond regard,
And calls to nobler heights her fav'rite bard.
Tracing a circle with her blazing ſpear,
"Here," cries the Goddeſs, "raiſe thy fabric here,
Build on theſe rocks, that to my reign belong,
The nobleſt baſis of Heroic Song!
Fix here! and, while thy growing works aſcend,
My voice ſhall guide thee, and my arm defend."
As thus ſhe ſpeaks, methinks her high beheſt
Imparts pure rapture to thy conſcious breaſt,
Pure as the joy immortal Newton found,
When Nature led him to her utmoſt bound,
And clearly ſhew'd, where unborn ages lie,
The diſtant comet to his daring eye;
Pure as the joy the ſire of mortals knew,
When bliſsful Eden open'd on his view,
When firſt he liſten'd to the voice Divine,
And wond'ring heard, "This Paradiſe is thine."
With ſuch delight may'ſt thou her gift receive!
May thy warm heart with bright ambition heave
To raiſe a temple to her hallow'd name,
Above what Grecian artiſts knew to frame!
Of Engliſh form the ſacred fabric rear,
And bid our country with juſt rites revere
The power, who ſheds, in her benignant ſmile,
The brighteſt glory on our boaſted iſle!
'Juſtly on thee th' inſpiring Goddeſs calls;
Her mighty taſk each weaker bard appals:
'Tis thine, O Maſon! with unbaffled ſkill,
Each harder duty of our art to fill;
'Tis thine, in robes of Beauty to array,
And in bright Order's lucid blaze diſplay,
The forms that Fancy, to thy wiſhes kind,
Stamps on the tablet of thy clearer mind.
How ſoftly ſweet thy notes of pathos ſwell,
The tender accents of Elfrida tell;
Caractacus proclaims, with Freedom's fire,
How rich the tone of thy ſublimer lyre;
E'en in this hour, propitious to thy fame,
The rural deities repeat thy name:
With feſtive joy I hear the ſylvan throng
Hail the completion of their favourite ſong,

Thy

Thy graceful ſong! in honour of whoſe power,
Delighted Flora, in her ſweeteſt bower,
Weaves thy unfading wreath;—with fondeſt care,
Proudly ſhe weaves it, emulouſly fair,
To match that crown, which in the Mantuan grove
The richer Ceres for her Virgil wove!
See! his Euridice herſelf once more
Reviſits earth from the Elyſian ſhore!
Behold! ſhe hovers o'er thy echoing glade!
Envy, not love, conducts the penſive ſhade,
Who, trembling at thy lyre's pathetic tone,
Fear's leſt Nerina's fame ſurpaſs her own.

'Thou happy bard! whoſe ſweet and potent voice
Can reach all notes within the poet's choice;
Whoſe vivid ſoul has led thee to infuſe
Dramatic life in the preceptive Muſe;
Since bleſt alike with beauty and with force,
Thou rivall'ſt Virgil in his ſylvan courſe,
O be it thine the higher palm to gain,
And paſs him in the wide heroic plain!
To ſing, with equal fire, of nobler themes,
To gild Hiſtoric Truth with Fancy's beams!
To patriot chiefs unſung thy lyre devote,
And ſwell to Liberty the lofty note!

'With humbler aim, but no ungenerous view,
My ſteps, leſs firm, their lower path purſue;
Of different Arts I ſearch the ample field,
Marks its paſt fruits, and what it yet may yield;
With willing voice the praiſe of Merit ſound,
And bow to Genius whereſoever found,
O'er my free verſe bid nobleſt names preſide,
Tho' Party's hoſtile lines thoſe names divide;
Party! whoſe murdering ſpirit I abhor,
More ſubtly cruel, and leſs brave than War.
Party! inſidious fiend! whoſe vapours blind
The light of juſtice in the brighteſt mind;
Whoſe feveriſh tongue, whence deadly venom flows,
Baſely belies the merit of her foes!
O that my verſe with magic power were bleſt,
To drive from Learning's field this baleful peſt!
Fond, fruitleſs wiſh! the mighty taſk would foil
The firmeſt ſons of literary toil;
In vain a letter'd Hercules might riſe
To cleanſe the ſtable where this monſter lies:
Yet, if the imps of her malignant brood,
With all their parent's acrid gall endu'd;
If Spleen pours forth, to Mockery's apiſh tune,
Her gibing ballad, and her baſe lampoon,
On faireſt names, from every blemiſh free,
Save what the jaundic'd eyes of Party ſee;

My

My glowing ſcorn will execrate the rhyme,
Tho' laughing Humor ſtrike its tuneful chime;
Tho' keeneſt Wit the glitt'ring lines inveſt
With all the ſplendor of the adder's creſt.
' Sublimer Maſon! not to thee belong
The reptile beauties of envenom'd ſong.
Thou chief of living bards! O be it ours,
In fame tho' different, as of different powers,
Party's dark clouds alike to riſe above,
And reach the firmament of Public Love!
May'ſt thou aſcend Parnaſſus' higheſt mound,
In triumph there the epic trumpet ſound;
While, with no envious zeal, I thus aſpire
By juſt applauſe to fan thy purer fire;
And of the work which Freedom pants to ſee,
Which thy firm genius, claims reſerv'd for thee,
In this frank ſtyle my honeſt thoughts impart,
If not an artiſt yet a friend to art.'

From the two following lines, which make part of this extract,

' Sublimer Maſon! not to thee belong
The reptile beauties of envenom'd ſong,'

we are led to ſuppoſe, that Mr. Maſon is not, or at leaſt, that Mr. Hayley does not imagine him to be the author of ſome very ſevere ſatyrical pieces, which have been generally aſcribed to him.

This poem is, as our readers muſt perceive, from the little ſketch which we have given, a judicious, correct, and elegant performance. It has not, we muſt at the ſame time acknowlege, that glow of fancy, copious invention, and warmth of imagination, which we ſo much admired in the Triumph of Temper; nor could the ſubject require or even admit of them: it abounds, however, with all that grace and harmony of numbers, that propriety of ſentiment, ſound judgment, and poliſhed diction, which ſo eminently diſtinguiſh the works of this animated writer, who ſeems, as we have formerly obſerved, to have united the correctneſs and elegance of Pope with the freedom and ſpirit of Dryden.

We cannot finiſh our critique on this work without obſerving, as a remarkable circumſtance, that the notes affixed to the poem have ſwelled to a larger ſize than the poem itſelf. Our author's obſervations on the third epiſtle only, contain no leſs than a hundred and thirty-two pages. Few verſe-makers are ſo fond of writing proſe; but Mr. Hayley, who excels in both, indefatigable in his ſearch after learning and knowlege of every kind, in his obſervations on ſeveral paſſages in his

poems, explains and illuſtrates every fact and circumſtance alluded to, and entertains us with agreeable anecdotes of all the diſtinguiſhed perſons whom he has occaſion to mention. This has extended his notes to a much greater length than he probably was himſelf aware of.—In the third book, having taken notice of Ercilla, a Spaniſh epic poet, he enters into a long and laboured detail of his Arancana; ſeveral paſſages of which he has tranſlated; though, after all that Mr. Hayley has advanced concerning this poem, it does not appear to deſerve the warm approbation he has beſtowed, or the pains he has taken to illuſtrate and explain it.

The Journey from Cheſter to London. 4*to.* 1*l.* 5*s. in Boards.* White.

MR. Pennant is already ſo well known in the literary world, as an inſtructive and ingenious writer, that a book with his name prefixed to it requires little farther recommendation. —While ſo many young men of rank and fortune are every year emigrating to the continent, and expoſing their ignorance in *foreign* countries, this worthy and ſenſible Briton inculcates, what has often been recommended, a previous knowlege of their *own*; an acquiſition the author has made, by indefatigable aſſiduity and unremitted attention, which, united to a ſtrong biaſs of mind in favour of Britiſh antiquities, have enabled him to give an accurate and entertaining hiſtory of almoſt every place worthy of notice in this kingdom.

'The ground deſcribed in the work before us has been (as he obſerves in an advertiſement prefixed to it) for ſome centuries paſſed over by the incurious traveller; and has had the hard fortune of being conſtantly execrated for its dulneſs. To retort the charge, and clear it from the calumny, is my preſent buſineſs. To ſhew that the road itſelf, or its vicinity, is replete with either ancient hiſtoric facts, or with matter worthy of preſent attention, is an affair of no great difficulty. Poſſibly my readers may ſubſcribe to the opinion, that the tract is not abſolutely devoid of entertainment, and that the blame reſts on themſelves, not the country.'

What unfavourable or contemptuous opinion former travellers may have entertained concerning the tract of land paſſed over in this journey, we cannot pretend to determine, or to aſcertain the cauſe of ſuch unmerited neglect; certain it is, that in the hands of Mr. Pennant it forms a moſt agreeable and amuſing work, which we have peruſed with great pleaſure,

ſure, and we doubt not but our readers will accompany him through it with equal ſatisfaction.

In a work of this kind, where there is ſuch a variety of matter, it is not very eaſy to ſelect paſſages that will pleaſe every taſte. With this view, however, we ſhall lay before our readers ſome extracts.

To thoſe who are deſirous of being acquainted with the natural hiſtory and manufactures of their country, this account of the ſalt-works near Nantwich will be very acceptable.

'The art of making ſalt was known in very early times, to the Gauls and Germans: it is not, therefore, likely that the Britons, who had, in ſeveral places, plenty of ſalt-ſprings, ſhould be ignorant of it. The way of making it was very ſimple, but very dirty; for they did no more than fling the water on burning wood; the water evaporated by the heat, and left the ſalt adhering to the aſhes, or charcoal.

'It is very probable that the Britons uſed the ſpring of Nantwich for this purpoſe; numbers of pieces of half-burnt wood being frequently dug up in this neighbourhood. Salinis was a place not far from hence, one of the wiches; but I am uncertain which. The Romans made uſe of the ſprings, and made ſalt by much the ſame proceſs as we do at preſent. The ſalt produced was white. It ſtruck the natives, who ſtyled this place, perhaps the firſt place where they ſaw ſalt of this kind, heledd wen, or the white brine-pits, to diſtinguiſh them from the ſprings which they uſed in ſo ſlovenly a faſhion.

'The Romans were acquainted with rock-ſalt, but had not diſcovered it within the limits of Italy. There were mountains of ſalt in India. Spain afforded the tranſparent colorleſs rock-ſalt, and Cappadocia the deep yellow. The Romans were converſant in the methods of producing this uſeful article from the brine, which they practiſed in our iſland, and communicated their inſtructions to the natives. Salt was an early import into Britain, but it was only to the Caſſiterides, and the neighboring parts, which were remote from the ſalt-ſprings.

'Theſe advantages are but ſparingly ſcattered over Great Britain: Scotland and Ireland are totally deſtitute of them. In England there are ſeveral, but few that contain ſalt ſufficient to be worked. Thus, there are ſome which riſe out of the middle of the Were, in the biſhoprick of Durham; others in Yorkſhire, Cumberland, Lancaſhire, and Oxfordſhire: all thoſe are neglected, either on account of their weakneſs, or, in ſome places, by reaſon of the dearneſs of fuel. Theſe in Cheſhire, and thoſe at Droitwich in Worceſterſhire, with the ſmall works at Weſton in Staffordſhire, are the only places where any buſineſs is done. Droitwich, and thoſe in Cheſhire, were worked by the Romans, and had the common name of Salinæ.

'From

'From that period to the preſent, they have been ſucceſſively in uſe. The Saxons, according to their idea of liberty, divided them between the king, the great people, and the freemen. Thus, at Nantwich was one brine-pit, which gave employ to numbers of ſalinæ, or works. Eight of them were between the king and earl Edwin, of which the king had two ſhares of the profits, the earl one. Edwin had likewiſe a work near his manor of Aghton, out of which was made ſalt ſufficient for the annual conſumption of his houſhold; but if any was ſold, the king had a tax of two pence, and the earl of one penny.

'In this place were likewiſe numbers of works belonging to the people of the neighbourhood; which had this uſage: from Aſcenſion-day to the feaſt of St. Martin, they might carry home what ſalt they pleaſed; but if they ſold any on the ſpot, or any where in the county, they were to pay a tax to the king and the earl: but after the feaſt of St. Martin, whoſoever took the ſalt home, whether his own, or purchaſed from other works, was to pay toll, except the before mentioned work of the earl; which enjoyed exemption, according to ancient uſage.

'It appears, that the king and earl farmed out their eight works; for they were obliged to give, on the Friday of the weeks in which they were worked, xvi. boilings; of which xv. made one ſum of ſalt. This is a meaſure, which, according to Spelman, amounts to a horſe-load, or eight buſhels. The pans of other people, from Aſcenſion-day to that of St. Martin, were not ſubject to this farm on the Friday; but from St. Martin's day to Aſcenſion they were liable to thoſe cuſtoms, in the ſame manner as thoſe of the king and the earl.

'The Welſh uſed to ſupply themſelves from theſe pits, before the union of our country with England. Henry III. in order to diſtreſs them, during the wars he had with them, took care to put a ſtop to the works, and deprive them of this neceſſary article.

All theſe ſalt-works were confined between the river and a certain ditch. If any perſon was guilty of a crime, within theſe limits, he was at liberty of making atonement by a mulct of two ſhillings, or xxx. boilings of ſalt; except in the caſe of murder or theft, for which he was to ſuffer death. If crimes of that nature were committed without the precinct, the common uſage of the county was to be obſerved.

'In the time of the Confeſſor, this place yielded a rent of xx. pounds, with all the pleas of the hundred; but when earl Hugh received it, it was a waſte.

'The Germans had an idea of a peculiar ſanctity attendant on ſalt-ſprings; that they were nearer to heaven than other places; that the prayers of mortals were no where ſooner heard; and that, by the peculiar favour of the gods, the rivers and the woods were productive of ſalt, not, as in other places, by the virtue of the ſea, but by the water being poured on a burning pile of wood.

'Whe-

'Whether this notion might not have been delivered from the Germans to their Saxon progeny, and whether they might not, in after-times, deliver their grateful thanks for theſe advantages, I will not determine; but certain it is, that on Aſcenſion day the old inhabitants of Nantwich piouſly ſang a hymn of thankſgiving, for the bleſſing of the brine. A very ancient pit, called the Old Brine, was alſo held in great veneration, and, till within theſe few years, was annually, on that feſtival, bedecked with boughs, flowers, and garlands, and was encircled by a jovial band of young people, celebrating the day with ſong and dance.

'This feſtival was probably one of the reliques of Saxon paganiſm, which Mellitus might permit his proſelytes to retain, according to the political inſtructions he received from Gregory the Great, on his miſſion, leaſt, by too rigid an adherence to the purity of the Chriſtian religion, he ſhould deter the Engliſh from accepting his doctrine. In fact, ſalt was, from the earlieſt times, in the higheſt eſteem, and admitted into religious ceremonies: it was conſidered as a mark of league and friendſhip. "Neither ſhalt thou, ſays the Jewiſh legiſlator, ſuffer the ſalt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat-offering. With all thy offerings thou ſhalt offer ſalt." Homer gives to ſalt the epithet of divine. Both Greeks and Romans mixed ſalt with their ſacrificial cakes. In their luſtrations they made uſe of ſalt and water, which gave riſe, in after-times, to the ſuperſtition of holy water; only the Greeks made uſe of an olive branch inſtead of a bruſh, to ſprinkle it on the objects of purification.

Next, with pure ſulphur purge the houſe, and bring
The pureſt water from the freſheſt ſpring;
This, mix'd with ſalt, and with green olive crown'd,
Will cleanſe the late contaminated ground.
Theocritus, Idyl. 24.

Stuckius tells us, that the Moſcovites thought that a prince could not ſhew a gueſt a greater mark of affection, that by ſending to him ſalt from his own table. The dread of ſpilling of ſalt, is a known ſuperſtition among us and the Germans, being reckoned a preſage of ſome future calamity, and particularly, that it foreboded domeſtic feuds; to avert which, it is cuſtomary to fling ſome ſalt over the ſhoulder into the fire, in a manner truly claſſical:

Molibit et averſos penates
Farre pio, ſaliente mica.'

Such as love droll anecdotes and uncommon characters, will be entertained with captain Sandford's letter.

'This town, ſays Mr. Pennant, ſpeaking of Nantwich, was the only one in the county which continued firm to the parlement from the beginning to the end of the civil wars. It underwent a ſevere ſiege in January 1643, by lord Biron; who, after the ſignal defeat he here experienced from the army commanded by ſir Thomas Fairfax, on the 25th of that month retired with his ſhattered

tered forces to Cheſter. The place was defended only by mud-walls and ditches, formed in a haſty manner by the inhabitants and country people; who were highly incenſed at ſome cruel and impolitic treatment they had met with from the royaliſts. The garriſon defended themſelves with great obſtinacy. The moſt remarkable attack was on the 18th of January, when the beſiegers were repulſed with great loſs. Among the ſlain on their ſide, was the famous captain Sandford; who again employed the eloquence of his pen, but to as little purpoſe as he did before at Hawarden. On each occaſion he maintains the ſame ſtyle.

" To the Officers, Soldiers, and Gentlemen
in Namptwyche, theſe.

" Your drum can inform you, Acton church is no more a priſon, but now free for honeſt men to do their devotions therein; wherefore be perſuaded from your incredulity, and reſolve God will not forſake his anointed. Let not your zeal in a bad cauſe dazzle your eyes any longer; but wipe away your vain conceits, that have too long let you into blind errors. Loth I am to undertake the trouble of perſuading you into obedience, becauſe your erroneous opinions do moſt violently oppoſe reaſon amongſt you; but, however, if you love your town, accept of quarter; and if you regard your lives, work your ſafeties by yielding your town to lord Byron, for his majeſty's uſe. You ſee now my battery is fixed; from whence fire ſhall eternally viſit you, to the terror of the old, and females, and conſumption of the thatched houſes. Believe me, gentlemen, I have laid by my former delays, and am now reſolved to batter, burn, ſtorm, and deſtroy you. Do not wonder that I write unto you, having officers in chief above me: 'tis only to adviſe you, becauſe I have ſome friends amongſt you, for whoſe ſafety I wiſh you to accept of my lord Byron's conditions; he is gracious, and will charitably conſider of you. Accept of this as a ſummons, that you forthwith ſurrender the town; and by that teſtimony of your fealty to his majeſty, you may obtain favour. My firelocks, you know, have done ſtrange feats, both by day and night; and hourly we will not fail in our private viſits of you. You have not as yet received mine alarms; wherefore expect ſuddenly to hear from my battery and approaches before your Welſh Row.

" This 15th of January, 1643. Tho. Sandford,
Captain of Firelocks."

Thoſe who are fond of ancient Gothic buildings will be pleaſed, eſpecially if they are Staffordſhire-men, with the following exact deſcription of Litchfield Cathedral.

' The honour of reſtoring this church to its former ſplendor, was reſerved for John Hacket, preſented to his ſee in 1661. On the very next day after his arrival, he ſet his coach-horſes, with teams, to remove the rubbiſh; and in eight years time reſtored the

the cathedral to its preſent beautiful ſtate, at the expence of twenty thouſand pounds; one thouſand of which was the gift of the dean and chapter; the reſt was done either at his own charge, or by benefactions reſulting from his own ſolicitations. He died in 1670. A very handſome tomb was erected in the choir to his memory, with his effigies laid recumbent on it, with a mitre on his head, and in his epiſcopal dreſs.

'The weſt front is of great elegance, adorned with the richeſt ſculpture, and, till of late, with rows of ſtatues of prophets, kings of Judah, &c. and, above all, a very bad one of Charles II. who had contributed to the repair of the church, by a liberal gift of timber. This ſtatue was the work of a ſir William Wilſon, originally a maſon from Sutton Coldfield, who, after marrying a rich wife, arrived at the dignity of knighthood.

'The ſculptures round the doors were very elegant; but time, or violence, hath greatly impaired their beauty.

'James II. when duke of York, beſtowed on this church the magnificent weſt window. The fine painted glaſs was given of late years, by dean Addenbrook.

'The northern door is extremely rich in ſculptured mouldings: three of foliage, and three of ſmall figures in ovals. In one of the loweſt is repreſented a monk baptizing a perſon kneeling before him. Probably the former is intended for St. Chad; the latter for Wulferus. It is a misfortune, that the ornaments of this cathedral are made of ſuch friable ſtone, that what fanaticiſm has ſpared, the weather has impaired.

'In the front are two fine ſpires, and a third in the centre, of a vaſt height, and fine proportion.

'The roof was till of late covered with lead, but grew ſo greatly out of repair, that the dean and chapter were obliged to ſubſtitute ſlates inſtead of metal, on account of the narrow revenues left to maintain this venerable pile; and, after the ſtricteſt œconomy, they will be under the neceſſity of contributing from their own income, in order to complete their plan. The excellent order that all the cathedrals I have viſited are in, does great credit to their members; who ſpare nothing from their own incomes to render them not only decent, but elegant.

'The body is lofty, ſupported by pillars formed of numbers of ſlender columns, with neat foliated capitals. Along the walls of the ailes are rows of falſe arches, in the Gothic ſtyle, with a ſeat beneath.

'The upper rows of windows, in the body, are of an uncommon form, being triangular, including three circles in each.

'In each tranſept are two places, formerly chapels; at preſent conſiſtory courts, and the vicar's veſtry-room.

'The choir merits attention, on account of the elegant ſculpture about the windows, and the embattled gallery that runs beneath them. On each ſide are ſix ſtatues, now much mutilated, placed in beautiful Gothic niches, and richly painted. The firſt on the left is St. Peter; the next is the Virgin; the third is Mary

Magdalene, with one leg bare, to denote her legendary wantonneſs. The other three are St. Philip, St. James, and St. Chriſtopher, with Chriſt on his ſhoulders.

'The beauty of this choir is much impaired by the impropriety of a rich altar-piece, of Grecian architecture, terminating this elegant Gothic building.

'Behind this is St. Mary's chapel, with a ſtone ſkreen, the moſt elegant which can be imagined, embattled at top, and adorned with ſeveral rows of Gothic niches, of moſt exquiſite workmanſhip; each formerly containing a ſmall ſtatue. Beneath them are thirteen ſtalls, with Gothic work over each. In this chapel are nine windows, more narrow, lofty, and of more elegant work than any of the others; three on each ſide, and three at the end.'

The following curious anecdote, which our author has given in his account of Northampton, is, we believe, not much known; we recommend it, therefore, to the peruſal of our readers.

'I muſt not omit mention, ſays Mr. Pennant, of the ſhort-lived univerſity which exiſted in this town; and which aroſe from the following occaſion:—In 1238, Otho, the pope's legate, happened to viſit the univerſity of Oxford, and took his reſidence at the neighbouring convent of Oſney. He was one day reſpectfully waited on by the ſtudents; who were inſolently refuſed admittance by the Italian porter. At length, after intolerable provocation from the clerk of the kitchen, a Welſh ſtudent drew his bow, and ſhot him dead. The reſentment of government, and the fear of puniſhment, cauſed the firſt ſeceſſion of the ſtudents to Northampton, and other places. In ſucceeding years freſh riots aroſe, and occaſioned farther migrations. At length, theſe migrations were made under ſanction of the king; who imagined that the diſturbances aroſe from the too great concourſe of ſcholars to one place. It is ſaid, that not fewer than fifteen thouſand ſtudents ſettled in this town. Whether from reſentment of former proceedings againſt them, or from the uſual diſlike youth has to governing powers, they took the part of the barons. They formed themſelves into companies, had their diſtinguiſhing banner, and, when Henry III. made his attack on Northampton, proved by far his moſt vigorous opponents. After the king had made himſelf maſter of the place, he determined to hang every ſtudent; but being at length appeaſed, he permitted them to return to Oxford, under the conduct of Simon Mountford, and aboliſhed the univerſity of Northampton.'

In our traveller's account of the pictures at Caſtle Aſhby, the ſeat of the Comptons, in Northamptonſhire, we have a remarkable digreſſion concerning ſir Stephen Fox. As this is a name which cannot be mentioned at the preſent juncture with-

without attracting immediate notice, our patriot-readers will, we hope, liſten with attention to Mr. Pennant whilſt he ſays, p. 314, of this work,

'That favourite of fortune ſir Stephen Fox, is repreſented ſitting, in a long wig and night-gown: a good-looking man. He was the ſon of a private family in Wiltſhire, but raiſed himſelf by the moſt laudable of means, that of merit. After the battle of Worceſter, in which his elder brother was engaged, he fled with him to France, and was entertained by Henry lord Percy, then lord chamberlain to our exiled monarch. To young Fox was committed the whole regulation of the houſehold; "who," as lord Clarendon obſerves, "was well qualified with the languages, and all parts of clerkſhip, honeſty, and diſcretion, as was neceſſary for ſuch a truſt; and indeed his great induſtry, modeſty, and prudence, did very much contribute to the bringing the family, which for ſo many years had been under no government, into very good order." On the Reſtoration he was made clerk of the green cloth; and on the raiſing of the two regiments, the firſt of the kind ever known, he was appointed paymaſter, and ſoon after paymaſter-general to all the forces in England. In 1679, he was made one of the lords of the Treaſury; and in the ſame year, firſt commiſſioner in the office of maſter of the horſe; and in 1682, had intereſt to get his ſon Charles, then only twenty-three years old, to be appointed ſole paymaſter of the forces, and himſelf, in 1684, ſole commiſſioner for maſter of the horſe. James II. continued to him every kind of favour; yet ſir Stephen made a very eaſy tranſition to the ſucceeding prince, and enjoyed the ſame degree of courtly emolument. James thought he might have expected another return from this creation of the Stuarts: accordingly excepted him in his act of grace, on the intended invaſion of 1692.

'Sir Stephen made a noble uſe of the gifts of fortune: he rebuilt the church of Farly, his native place; built an hoſpital there for ſix poor men, and as many poor women; erected a chapel there, and handſome lodgings for the chaplain, and endowed it with 188 l. a-year: he founded in the ſame place a charity-ſchool; he built the chancel of a church in the north of Wiltſhire, which the rector was unable to do. He alſo built the church of Culford in Suffolk, and pewed the cathedral of Saliſbury: but his greateſt act was the founding of Chelſea Hoſpital, which he firſt projected, and contributed thirteen thouſand pounds towards the carrying on; alleging, that he "could not bear to ſee the common ſoldiers, who had ſpent their ſtrength in our ſervice, beg at our doors."

'He married his ſecond wife in 1703, when he was ſeventy-ſix years of age, and had by her two ſons: Stephen, late earl of Ilcheſter; and Henry, late lord Holland. His happineſs continued to his laſt moment; for he died, without experiencing the uſual infirmities of eighty-nine, in October 1716.'

The hiſtory of this family ſince the year 1716 would, perhaps, be ſtill more entertaining.

Our laſt quotation from this work ſhall be an odd medley of Engliſh and Latin on the tomb of John Ackworth, eſq. in Luton Church, which runs thus:

'O man, who eer thow be, *timor mortis* ſhulde trouble the;
For when thou beeſt wenyſt,
Veniet te
Mors ſuperare
And ſo - - - - - - - grave grevys
Ergo mortem memorare
Jeſu mercy: Lady helpe: *Jeſu* mercy.'

This volume is ornamented with two and twenty plates of Gothic buildings, gates, ſeats, monuments, &c. moſt of them tolerably well executed by Griffiths and others.

Though we admire Mr. Pennant as a curious inveſtigator, an excellent antiquary, and an inſtructive traveller, juſtice obliges us to ſay, that we cannot always commend him as a correct and elegant writer, as in ſome parts of our author's journey, a quaintneſs of expreſſion*, with an inaccuracy of ſtyle, obſcure the good ſenſe, and throw a ſhade over the merits of this uſeful and ingenious performance; which, notwithſtanding, we would adviſe every gentleman who ſets out for Cheſter, or is coming thence, to purchaſe, eſpecially if he travels alone, as he will be ſufficiently entertained by Mr. Pennant, and need not advertiſe for an agreeable companion in a poſt-chaiſe.

A ſelect Collection of Poems: with Notes, biographical and hiſtorical. vols. V. VI. VII. and VIII. 12*mo.* 10*s. in Boards.* Nichols.

IT often happens, that not above one part in four of the works of our minor poets, (which, we think, is a charitable computation,) will bear a ſecond reading; the conſequence of which

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* Mr. Pennant's advertiſement, prefixed to this book, concludes thus:

'Public! ſmile on what is right: candidly convey correction of what is wrong.'

He calls the Duke of Bridgwater 'an uſeful peer,' and ſays he was happy in finding a genius ſuch as Brindley, *cotemporary to* his great deſigns.

Speaking of the monument of ſir Edward Bagot, he obſerves 'it is *mural*, and *ſupercedes* the ten commandments, being placed over the altar.'

Having occaſion to mention a certain village, he ſays, 'it was anciently full of gentlemen's ſeats, a moſt uſeful ſpecies of *population* to the poor, whoſe diſtreſſes ſeldom fail reaching the ears of *mediocrity*, but whoſe cries rarely *attain* the ears of greatneſs.'

muſt

muſt be, that the whole is quickly buried in oblivion, as few chuſe to buy a volume for the ſake of two or three pages: the editor therefore who, with taſte and judgment, diſentangles the flowers from the weeds, and tranſplants them into a new and neat garden, undoubtedly merits approbation and encouragement.—Such has been the deſign and employment of Mr. Nichols: he has, with great aſſiduity and diſcernment, ſelected from various writers, this very pleaſing collection of poems, which is completed in eight volumes. The four laſt, now before us, carry with them the ſame marks of the editor's accuracy and judgment as the former. The biographical notes ſubjoined make no inconſiderable addition to the entertainment of the reader, and form a kind of hiſtorical detail of the progreſs of poetry. Mr. Nichols has likewiſe enriched his work with a number of original poems, among which he has treated us with ſome of his own.

Of thoſe compoſitions which make their firſt appearance in this collection, and conſequently have that firſt of all attractions, novelty, to recommend them, the following are perhaps the moſt worthy of attention.

A poetical Epiſtle by Mr. Browne, to himſelf, not in his Works.

'Well, this poetic itch creeps on,
Dodſley adopts you all his own.
Firſt, Phœbe gave the luckleſs hint,
Now, your Epiſtles flare in print;
This week, on every ſtall they lie
Diſplay'd; the next beneath a pie;
Inſtead of purple and the coif,
Curll prints your works, and writes your life.
If Mævius ſcribble, 'tis to feed
A bard inſpir'd by daring need:
But, having wherewithal to dine,
What vengeance damns thee to the Nine?
You write to pleaſe—a taſk indeed!—
Taſte differs, juſt as men who read:
This loves an eaſy line, and that
Deems all that is not glaring, flat.
Some, wit and thought can ſcarce endure;
Swift is too vulgar, Pope obſcure;
Whim, weather, envy, party, ſpite,
Sit heavy on the tribe that write;
Sad lot of authors! vain your toil!
Away with all your midnight oil!
Your charity to human kind;
Who holds a taper to the blind?

A poet, wrapt in ſong ſublime,
Suits not our ſublunary clime;
Few are endued with eagle eyes,
To mark his progreſs though the ſkies;
And when he wings his lofty flight,
He periſhes from vulgar ſight.
Yet, ſpite of folly or caprice,
Suppoſe ('tis but hypotheſis)
Your Muſe could win her way to praiſe,
And Cheſterfield approve the lays;
Now ſudden wreaths your temples crown,
Proclaim'd a poet—about town,
Thee, toaſts admire, and peers careſs;
Frail and fallacious happineſs!
Peers treat their poets as their whores,
Enjoy, then turn them out of doors;
For wit (if always in your power)
Is but a cordial for an hour:
Shown like a freſh imported ape,
A while you ſet the town agape;
Beaux, belles, and captains, form a ring,
To ſee the new facetious thing;
This happy minion of the Nine,
We wonder when he means to ſhine;
Fool! would you prattle, *tête à tête*,
With all the fair and all the great;
Mark whom their favours are beſtow'd on,
Cibber, and Heidegger, and Boden.
Poets are arbiters of fame:
True, but who loves or fears a name?
Is it for fame ſir — — — —
For fame that — — — — —
Such hate a poet, or deſpiſe;
Their proſpect in oblivion lies.
Search far and wide where Virtue dwells,
In camps, or colleges, or cells,
Heroes alike, and bards, inſtead
Of panegyrick, ſigh for bread.
Or call forth all the powers of fable,
Deſcribe a ſtateſman juſt and able,
Who, ſkill'd in play, diſdains to pack,
What will you gain? the butt of ſack?
Let Colley ſing, in numbers meet,
Our leagues and wars, and Spithead fleet;
Satire be thine, a flowery field,
Yet has a ſerpent oft conceal'd.
A jury finds your words in print,
But Curlls interpret what is meant.
Grant it were ſafe, not Oldham's ſtorm
Of ſatire could a ſoul reform.

To curb the time, can poets hope,
Peter but ſneers, though laſh'd by Pope.
Would you from dice or pox reclaim,
Brand this or that flagitious name:
What boots it, ſharpers and intriguers?
But aſk, were Chartres, Oldfield, beggars?
No, born for modern imitation,
Worthies that throve in their vocation.
Not e'en thy Horace, happy bard,
Was by the barren Muſe preferr'd,
While yet a friend to freedom hearty,
An honeſt, but a ſtarving party.
He paſs'd for but a ſimple wretch,
And lov'd his bottle and a catch:
He deem'd himſelf no very wiſe-man,
Nor aim'd at better than exciſe-man;
To breeding had ſuch poor pretence,
Moſt thought he wanted common ſenſe.
Not courtly Athens, though polite
As Paris, could improve the wight.
Wheree'er he paſs'd, the mob was eager
To laugh at ſo groteſque a figure.
Yet Horace o'er the ſparkling bowl,
I grant, had talents for a droll;
And hence, though ſprung from dunghill earth,
He pleas'd the courtiers with his mirth;
Next wiſely ventur'd to renounce
His principles, and roſe at once,
Roſe from a bankrupt to the ſum
Of human happineſs—a plumb!
Then drank, and revel'd, and grew big,
Yet ſtill an aukward dirty pig.
Lo! then the people felt his gall,
'Twas "Sturdy beggars, damn ye all!"
Mindleſs of others love or ſpite,
He car'd not, ſo he pleas'd the knight;
And wrote, and wrote, as was the faſhion,
To praiſe the knight's adminiſtration.
Nay once, all worldly zeal ſo warm is,
He wrote in praiſe of ſtanding armies.
Such arts your dazzling Horace grew by,
Such might have rais'd an arrant booby.'

After theſe verſes, by the celebrated Iſaac Hawkins Browne, Mr. Nichols has inſerted three epigrams by the ſame author, never before printed; two of which being very dull, he might have omitted, without injury to the collection. The third runs thus:

On Dr. Young's Night-Thoughts, on Life, Death, and Immortality.

His *life* is lifeleſs, and his *death* ſhall die,
And mortal is his *immortality.*

This is not a bad epigram, though ill-founded. Browne's reaſon for not publiſhing it probably was, becauſe he imagined few would acknowlege it to be true.

Our next extract ſhall be an elegant little poem, by the ingenious Mr. Byrom.

To Henry Wright, of Mobberly, Eſq. on buying the Picture of F. Malebranche.

'Well, dear Mr. Wright, I muſt ſend you a line;
The purchaſe is made, Father Malebranche is mine.
The adventure is paſt, which I long'd to atchieve,
And I'm ſo overjoy'd, you will hardly believe.
If you will but have patience, I'll tell you, dear friend,
The whole hiſtory out from beginning to end.
Excuſe the long tale; I could talk, Mr. Wright,
About this ſame picture from morning till night.

'The morning it lower'd like the morning in Cato,
And brought on, methought, as important a day too;
But about ten o'olock it began to be clear;
And the fate of our capital piece drawing near,
Having ſupp'd off to breakfaſt ſome common decoction,
Away trudges I in all haſte to the auction;
Should have call'd upon you, but the weaver committee
Forbad me that pleaſure;—the more was the pity.

'The clock ſtruck eleven as I enter'd the room,
Where Rembrant and Guido ſtood waiting their doom,
With Holben and Rubens, Van Dyck, Tintoret,
Jordano, Pouſſin, Carlo Dolco, et cæt.
When at length in the corner perceiving the Pere,
Ha, quoth I to his face, my old friend, are you there?
And methought the face ſmil'd, juſt as tho' it would ſay,
What you 're come, Mr. Byrom, to fetch me away!

'Now before I had time to return it an anſwer,
Comes a ſhort-hander by, Jemmy Ord was the man, ſir,
So, Doctor, good morrow: ſo Jemmy, bon jour:
Some rare pictures here:—ſo there are to be ſure:
Shall we look at ſome of 'em? with all my heart, Jemmy;
So I walk'd up and down, and my old pupil wi'me.
Making ſtill ſuch remarks as our wiſdoms thought proper,
Where things were hit off in wood, canvas, or copper.

'When at length about noon Mr. Auctioneer Cox,
With his book and his hammer, mounts into his box;
Lot the firſt—number one—then advanc'd his upholder
With Malebranche: ſo Atlas bore Heaven on his ſhoulder,

Then

Then my heart, ſir, it went pit-a-pat, in good ſooth,
To ſee the ſweet face of the ſearcher of truth:
Ha, thought I to myſelf, if it coſt me a million,
This right honeſt head then ſhall grace my pavilion.
'Thus ſtood lot the firſt both in number and worth,
If pictures were priz'd for the men they ſet forth:
I'm ſure to my thinking, compar'd to this number
Moſt lots in the room ſeem'd to be but meer lumber.
The head then appearing, Cox left us to ſee 't,
And fell to diſcourſing concerning the feet,
"So long, and ſo broad—'tis a very fine head—
Pleaſe to enter it, gentlemen"—was all that he ſaid.
'Had I been in his place, not a ſtroke of an hammer
Till the force had been tried both of rhetorick and grammar;
"A very fine head!"—had thy head been as fine,
All the heads in the houſe had veil'd bonnets to thine:
Not a word whoſe it was—but in ſhort 'twas an head—
"Put it up what you pleaſe"—and ſo ſomebody ſaid,
Half a piece—and ſo on—for three pounds and a crown,
To ſum up my good fortune, I fetch'd him me down.
'There were three or four bidders, I cannot tell whether,
But they never could come two upon me together;
For as ſoon as one ſpoke, then immediately pop
I advanc'd ſomething more, fear the hammer ſhould drop.
I conſider'd, ſhould Cox take a whim of a ſudden,
What a hurry it would put a man's Lancaſhire blood in!
Once—twice—three pound five—ſo. Nemine con.
Came an abſolute rap—and thrice happy was John.
"Who bought it?" quoth Cox. "Here's the money,"
quoth I.
Still willing to make the ſecureſt reply:
And the ſafeſt receipt that a body can truſt
For preventing diſputes is—down with your duſt!
So I bought it, and paid for't, and boldly I ſay,
'Twas the beſt purchaſe made at Cadogan's that day;
The works the man wrote are the fineſt in nature,
And a moſt clever piece is his genuine portraiture.
'For the reſt of the pictures, and how they were ſold,
To others there preſent, I leave to be told:
They ſeem'd to go off, as at moſt other ſales,
Juſt as folks' money, judgment, or fancy prevails;
Some cheap and ſome dear; ſuch an image as this
Comes a trifle to me: and an odd wooden Swiſs
Wench's head, God knows who—forty-eight guineas—if her
Grace of Marlborough likes it—ſo fancy will differ.
'When the buſineſs was over, and the crowd ſomewhat
gone,
Whip into a coach I convey number one.
Drive along, honeſt friend, faſt as e'er you can p'n;
So he did, and 'tis now ſafe and ſound at Gray's-Inn:

Done

Done at Paris, it ſays, from the life by one Gery,
Who that was I can't tell, but I wiſh his heart merry;
In the year ninety-eight, ſixty juſt from the birth
Of the greateſt divine, that e'er liv'd upon earth.

'And now, if ſome evening, when you are at leiſure,
You'll come and rejoice with me over my treaſure,
With a friend or two with you, that will in free ſort
Let us mix metaphyſicks and ſhort-hand and port,
We'll talk of his book, or what elſe you've a mind,
Take a glaſs, read or write, as we ſee we're inclin'd:
Such friends and ſuch freedom! what can be more clever?
Huzza! Father Malebranche and Short-hand for ever.'

Though there are ſome pieces in this collection which have no claim to a place in it, and which perhaps might better have remained in their original obſcurity, the ingenious editor has, for the moſt part, ſo well mixed and digeſted his matter, that every ſeparate volume contains ſomething to fix the attention of his readers.

But, whilſt we are doing juſtice to Mr. Nichols as an editor, let us not forget him as a poet, a name which he ſeems not unambitious of; and to which the following lines, extracted from his Soliloquy on Happineſs (vol. viii. p. 145,) muſt give him a title.

'Say, are the paths of ſcience thoſe of bliſs?
Can learning's lore be thine, ſweet Happineſs?
Oh! let me climb the ſteep Pierian rocks;
The ſummit of th' Olympic Mount attain;
Or lave in cryſtal ſtreams, where dwell the nymphs
Of bland Aonia? Let me contemplate
The page Platonic! or, enraptur'd, ſoar,
Where Newton leads, to realms etherial, bright
With mild effulgence! Let me ſcan the paths
Of devious comets, or the ſplendid forms
Of planets ſtation'd! Let me join the train
Of ſages, bards, philoſophers! purſue
The tracks of ſcientific ſkill! explore
The ſcenes capacious of my native globe,
The ſeat of Nature! if in thoſe delights
Thou, dear Felicity, wilt ſhare; if thou
Wilt aid my labours!—But, alas! Content
Wears not the academic garb; the ſource
Of many a toilſome thought! where every ſtretch
Of knowledge paints th' aſcent more difficult!
Whither if kind Minerva's foſtering hand
A favourite votary ſhould perchance direct,
Aloof he ſtands, and, ſtruck with wild amaze,
Views the drear blank beneath him! In the void,
No ſoul congenial to divert his toil!

Painful pre-eminence!—Above the world!—
Above life's greateſt joys!—Above himſelf!—
'Ah! why thus coy, thou elevated good,
Thou bliſs primæval!—Teach me, brighteſt nymph,
Thy ſecret haunts; thy lov'd retreats reveal;
Unveil thy radiant beauties; and diſcloſe
The ſprings which lead the wandering ſoul to thee!
Yes, fair Content, I catch thy pleaſing ſmile,
And ſtand corrected!—With enraptur'd heart,
Thy mandates I obey—and plainly trace
Thy veſtige in the "human ſoul divine!"
'Hail! Source of every pleaſure, every joy!
For thou art pleaſure; and without thy charms
Creation's bounds would prove a lifeleſs ſpace!—
Like the mild ſhower, thy bounties, unperceiv'd,
Shed their kind influence! Whilſt the effect we feel,
The ſource we ſee not!—Loſt in deep amaze,
In vain we ſearch; yet, grateful, own the hand
Of Providence benign, whoſe wiſe decree
Preſides o'er every deed; whoſe gracious will
Ordains ſuch comforts for the ſinful race
Of man—repentant!—Comforts, which, on earth,
Anticipate th' expected joys of heaven!'

It is obſervable, with regard to the poems inſerted in this collection, that they are not ranged according to the order of time in which they were written. The verſes publiſhed within theſe few years are ſucceeded by others compoſed in the laſt century; and a copy on the death of Frederick Prince of Wales immediately follows an imitation of Chevy-Chace, written ſo lately as in 1773.—Would it not have been better, and more agreeable to the reader, if the poems had been placed in a chronological ſeries?

Thoughts on Hunting. A new Edition. By Peter Beckford, Eſq. 4to. 7s 6d. in Boards. Elmſley.

IT is not improbable that a recluſe reviewer and an active hunter may differ in opinion on this ſubject: but we have not forgot the feelings which the chace has excited: we can ſtill glory with the hunter in his triumphs, and repine with him in his diſappointments. It muſt, however, be allowed, that the encomiums on hunting have been exaggerated; and the language, which other times and different circumſtances have dictated, is ſtill, with ſome impropriety retained. The warlike contender with the native ſavage of the woods, whoſe recreations were the image of war, and whoſe common pleaſures were attended with hair-breadth 'ſcapes from bogs and precipices, as well as from his tuſky prey, is *yet* a hunter, as well as the Italian fribble, whoſe aim is only to enſnare

a few

a few timid ſmall birds. If the fox-hunter approaches more nearly to the firſt than the courſer to the ſecond, yet it muſt ſtill be allowed, that this *heroic*, this *manly* amuſement, has loſt it horrors and its dangers; and that the ſubſequent exceſſes of the table are more generally fatal than the toils of the chace. We mean not to depreciate this diverſion, but would only inſinuate that every horſeman, who follows a pack of hounds, has no right to that elevated character which diſtinguiſhed the hunter of the boar, or the purſuer of the wolf.

The preſent author has given us a ſyſtematic detail of what may be ſtyled 'the art of hunting.' The internal regulations of the kennel, the education of his hounds, and even the qualities which ſhould diſtinguiſh the huntſman, claim his attention. His directions are in general well founded; he avows his predilections, and is aware of their biaſs. That he has faults, however, even in his conduct as a hunter, and in his attempts as a writer, muſt be allowed; but neither are of conſequence enough for an extenſive criticiſm. His language is ſometimes too diffuſe, and his directions too much ſcattered, in conſequence of the epiſtolary form of writing. This frequently occaſions ambiguity; and we would particularly mention, as examples of this error, his directions for the time and method of introducing young hounds, as they ſeem to require ſome compreſſion, and a little more clearneſs, before they can be readily comprehended or practiſed.

In this ſecond edition, the author has avowed his name, and endeavoured to clear himſelf from the charges brought, by certain critics, againſt his humanity. He appeals to his brother ſportſmen for his acquittal of this crime; but we muſt object to this jury, as we think it is not entirely impartial. We ſhall give our opinion candidly and explicitly. The conduct of ſportſmen is, in general, very erroneous in this reſpect; they are guilty of much wanton cruelty to their aſſiſtants, their faithful attendants in the chaſe. Thoſe, who are inattentive to the conduct of their ſervants, tacitly allow it in a greater degree; for the dogs ſuffer both for the ſervants faults and their own. Our author, in many places, reprehends this conduct, and *as a ſportſman*, is HUMANE; but we fear that he will ſtill be found defective, if tried at a higher bar; and that what is humanity, when compared with the uſual proceedings, may ſtill, when ſeparately conſidered, be not without a ſhare of error.—Mr. Beckford is generally '*at fault*' in philoſophical diſcuſſions. His account of ſcent is 'puzzled in mazes, and perplexed with errors.' We ſhall endeavour to aſſiſt him. The particles which eſcape from the hunted prey,

prey, give the hounds notice of the tract through which he has paſſed; but it is evident, that theſe muſt remain diſtinct and ſeparate, in order to be perceived. Both water and air will abſorb, and wind will diſperſe them; if the ground is not very wet, if the air diſſolves with difficulty, and if there is ſome tenacity in the ſoil which will retain theſe particles, and prevent the ordinary motions of the air from diſperſing the effluvia, the ſcent then, in the ſportſman's phraſe, *will lie*. Theſe views require little explanation, they are obvious to the ſenſes, and may be eaſily noticed. We need ſcarcely explain the power by which air diſſolves water; this operation certainly exiſts, and though it may not be the ſole cauſe of evaporation, certainly influences it, in ſome degree. The oily particles probably diſappear in conſequence of a ſimilar change; the drying of the ground, therefore, will give a pretty certain indication of the operation of this cauſe; and our author has himſelf mentioned another, viz. the ſmell of the hounds, when they come out of the kennel.

The ſtyle is in general eaſy and agreeable; it abounds with lively turns and appoſite ſtories. As a ſpecimen we ſhall inſert his deſcription of the fox-chace; it contains thoſe circumſtances which are within the bounds of probability, not ſuch as will conſtantly happen. It is not plentifully interſperſed with halloos, for he remarks 'that the writing a halloo appears to him, almoſt as difficult as *penning a whiſper*.'

'The hour in the morning, moſt favourable to the diverſion, is certainly an early one; nor do I think I can fix it better than to ſay, the hounds ſhould be at the cover at ſun-riſing. Let us ſuppoſe that we are arrived at the cover ſide.—

'Now let your huntſman throw in his hounds as quietly as he can, and let the two whippers-in keep wide of him on either hand, ſo that a ſingle hound may not eſcape them; let them be attentive to his halloo, and be ready to encourage, or rate, as that directs; he will, of courſe, draw up the wind, for reaſons which I ſhall give in another place.—Now, if you can keep your brother ſportſmen in order, and put any diſcretion into them, you are in luck; they more frequently do harm than good: if it be poſſible, perſuade thoſe who wiſh to halloo the fox off, to ſtand quiet under the cover ſide, and on no account to halloo him too ſoon: if they do, he moſt certainly will turn back again: could you entice them all into the cover, your ſport, in all probability, would not be the worſe for it.

'How well the hounds ſpread the cover! The huntſman you ſee is quite deſerted, and his horſe, which ſo lately had a crowd at his heels, has not now one attendant left. How ſteadily they draw! You hear not a ſingle hound; yet none are idle. Is not this better than to be ſubject to continual diſappointment, from the eternal babbling of unſteady hounds?

'How

'How muſical their tongues!—Now as they get nearer to him, how the chorus fills!—Hark! he is found.—Now, where are all your ſorrows, and your cares, ye gloomy ſouls! Or where your pains and aches, ye complaining ones! One halloo has diſpelled them all.—What a craſh they make! and Echo ſeemingly takes pleaſure to repeat the ſound. The aſtoniſhed traveller forſakes his road, lured by its melody; the liſtening plowman now ſtops his plow; and every diſtant ſhepherd neglects his flock, and runs to ſee him break.—What joy! what eagerneſs in every face!

'Mark how he runs the cover's utmoſt limits, yet dare not venture forth; the hounds are ſtill too near!—That check is lucky!—now, if our friends head him not, he will ſoon be off—Hark! they halloo—by G--d he's gone!

'Now huntſman get on with the head hounds; the whipper-in will bring on the others after you: keep an attentive eye on the leading hounds, that, ſhould the ſcent fail them, you may know at leaſt how far they brought it.

'Mind Galloper, how he leads them!—It is difficult to diſtinguiſh which is firſt, they run in ſuch a ſtile; yet *he* is the foremoſt hound.—The goodneſs of his noſe is not leſs excellent than his ſpeed:—how he carries the ſcent! and when he loſes it, ſee how eagerly he ſlings to recover it again!—There—now he's at head again!—See how they top the hedge!—Now, how they mount the hill!—Obſerve what a head they carry; and ſhew me, if you can, one ſhuffle, or ſkirter amongſt them all: are they not like a parcel of brave fellows, who when they engage in an undertaking, determine to ſhare its fatigue, and its dangers, equally amongſt them?

It *was* then the fox I ſaw, as we came down the hill;—thoſe crows directed me which way to look, and the ſheep ran from him as he paſſed along. The hounds are now on the very ſpot, yet the ſheep ſtop them not, for they daſh beyond them. Now ſee with what eagerneſs they croſs the plain!—Galloper no longer keeps his place, Bruſher takes it—ſee how he flings for the ſcent, and how impetuouſly he runs!—How eagerly he took the lead, and how he ſtrives to keep it—yet Victor comes up apace.—He reaches him!—See what an excellent race it is between them!—It is doubtful which will reach the cover firſt.—How equally they run!—how eagerly they ſtrain! now Victor,—Victor!—Ah! Bruſher, you are beaten; Victor firſt tops the hedge.—See there! ſee how they all take it in their ſtrokes!—The hedge cracks with their weight; ſo many jump at once.

'Now haſtes the whipper in to the other ſide of the cover; he is right, unleſs he head the fox.—Liſten!—the hounds have turned.—They are now in two parts:—The fox has been headed back, and we have changed at laſt.

'Now, my lad, mind the huntſman's halloo, and ſtop to thoſe hounds which he encourages.—He is right!—that, doubtleſs, is the hunted fox;—now they are off again.

'Ha!

'Ha! a check.—Now for a moment's patience!—We preſs too cloſe upon the hounds!—Huntſman, ſtand ſtill! as yet they want you not.—How admirably they ſpread! how wide they caſt! Is there a ſingle hound that does not try? if there be, never ſhall he hunt again. There, Trueman is on the ſcent—he feathers, yet ſtill is doubtful—'tis right! how readily they join him! See thoſe wide caſting hounds, how they fly forward, to recover the ground they have loſt!—Mind Lightning how ſhe daſhes; and Mungo, how he works! old Frantic too, now puſhes forward; ſhe knows, as well as we, the fox is ſinking.

Huntſman! at fault at laſt? How far did you bring the ſcent? Have the hounds made their own caſt?—Now make yours. You ſee that ſheep-dog has been courſing the fox;—get forward with your hounds, and make a wide caſt.

'Hark! that halloo is indeed a lucky one.—If we can hold him on, we may yet recover him; for a fox, ſo much diſtreſſed, muſt ſtop at laſt. We now ſhall ſee if they will hunt as well as run; for there is but little ſcent, and the impending cloud ſtill makes that little leſs. How they enjoy the ſcent!—ſee how buſy they all are, and how each in his turn prevails!

'Huntſman be quiet! whilſt the ſcent was good, you preſſed on your hounds;—it was well done: when they came to a check, you ſtood ſtill, and interrupted them not:—they were afterwards at fault; you made your caſt with judgment, and loſt no time. You now muſt let them hunt;—with ſuch a cold ſcent as this, you can do no good; they muſt do it all themſelves;—lift them now, and not a hound will ſtoop again.—Ha! a high road, at ſuch a time as this, when the tendereſt-noſed hound can hardly own the ſcent!—Another fault! That man at work, then, has headed back the fox.—Huntſman! caſt not your hounds now, you ſee they have over-run the ſcent; have a little patience, and let them, for once, try back.

'We now muſt give them time;—ſee where they bend towards yonder furze brake—I wiſh he may have ſtopped there!—Mind that old hound, how he daſhes over the furze; I think he minds him.—Now for a freſh *entapis!*—Hark! they halloo!—Aye, there he goes.

'It is nearly over with him; had the hounds caught view he muſt have died.—He will hardly reach the cover;—ſee how they gain upon him at every ſtroke!—It is an admirable race, yet the cover ſaves him.

'Now be quiet, and he cannot eſcape us; we have the wind of the hounds, and cannot be better placed:—how ſhort he runs!—he is now in the very ſtrongeſt part of the cover.—What a craſh! every hound is in, and every hound is running for him. That was a quick turn!—again another!—he's put to his laſt ſhifts.—Now Miſchief is at his heels, and death is not far off.—Ha! they all ſtop at once;—all ſilent, and yet no earth is open. Liſten!—now they are at him again!—Did you hear that hound

catch

catch view? They had over-run the ſcent, and the fox laid down behind them.—Now, Reynard, look to yourſelf!—How quick they all give their tongues!—Little Dreadnought, how he works him! the terriers too, they now are ſqueaking at him.—How cloſe Vengeance purſues! how terribly ſhe preſſes!—it is juſt up with him!—Gods! what a craſh they make; the whole wood reſounds!—That turn was very ſhort!—There!—now!—aye, now they have him! Who—hoop!'

Eſſays on Hunting. Containing a philoſophical Enquiry into the Nature and Properties of the Scent; Obſervations on the different Kinds of Hounds, with the Manner of training them, &c. 8*vo.* 3*s. ſewed.* Robſon.

THIS work appears 'in a queſtionable ſhape.' The Eſſays are confeſſedly the production of a different period, though now firſt printed. The letters on hare-hunting, which form more than half the volume, are added without a hint concerning the author, or the reaſon of their appearance; ſo that an air of myſtery envelopes the whole performance.

We have already given our opinion on the rank of the fox-hunter.—The purſuer of the hare, in the faireſt manner; or the courſer, have ſtill leſs claim to the title of an active, manly ſportſman.—But we ſhall not agree in our mode of eſtimation; and each muſt appreciate his own amuſements, according to his habits or his inclinations. The Introduction contains a few reflexions on poachers, and a tranſlation from Xenophon's Cynegetica. Of this we can only obſerve, that much of the tranſlator's merit is loſt, by his chuſing to adopt the technical language of the preſent day. In fact, we ſcarcely knew the ſubject in its new ſtyle, though we were well acquainted with the original; authors are not aware, that, by this peculiar dialect, they diſguſt the greater number of their readers, and write only for hunters, who, with reverence be it ſpoken, are not the moſt ſhining literary characters of the age.

The firſt Eſſay on Scent we cannot ſtyle *philoſophical*; in reality we have only a few deſultory facts, collected without an object, and detailed without regularity. We have already given a very ſhort, though very comprehenſive view, of the circumſtances which influence the continuance of the ſcent. It muſt now be added from this author, for which we confeſs our obligations, that the weight of the air, when diminiſhed, will ſometimes permit the particles to riſe above the level of the noſe: and that the ſcent, left in their evening walks, will frequently be covered by a hoar froſt, and in ſome meaſure, realize the fable of the voice in Nova Zembla,

by

by becoming ſenſible again, on a thaw. The origin of theſe odorous particles is left in obſcurity: our author ſeems to think it too intricate for his inveſtigation, and has mentioned it with that awful diffidence that the ancient phyſicians ſeemed to feel, when they talked of the το θειον as the cauſe of epidemics. We have, however, no doubt in declaring, that they ariſe from the perſpiration.—We ſhall now have the whole cry of hunters open againſt us, to laugh at our ignorance, or deſpiſe our preſumption. They will tell us that hares never ſweat, and that 'it is a vulgar error to ſuppoſe that they have ever been ſeen in that ſtate.' We fear however that, in the days of good king James, ſome witches, or reputed witches, have ſuffered for being found in a ſweat after the ſquire has loſt a hare; for this has been a preſumptive proof, that the good old lady had aſſumed that ſhape for a time, and deceived and miſled the moſt reſpectable men of the pariſh. There are, notwithſtanding, ſomewhat better proofs. It is no reaſon that perſpiration ſhould not take place becauſe it is never perceived in its proper form. The ſmell of a dog does not proceed from his breath, but from the ſkin; and, in all animals, that have hairs, there is an evident oilineſs which preſerves them in their proper ſtate. Hares, alſo, near their end, but while yet capable of breathing, loſe all ſcent; ſo that a hare is often loſt when ſhe is quite fatigued; and a very ſlight knowlege of the animal oeconomy will tells us that, at that time, the perſpiration is entirely checked. If we yet want further proofs, Buffon has informed us that, after a hare has been loſt, ſhe has been again recovered, by perceiving a little cloud of vapor over the ſpot where ſhe has ſat, and this has been actually ſeen, at the diſtance of half a league. Theſe views, added to our former, will give a ſufficiently diſtinct account of this intricate ſubject. It is entirely incompatible with our object to purſue them to a greater extent.

Our eſſayiſt then treats of the dog, our faithful attendant and conſtant friend. He is confident in alleging that *all dogs* are of the *ſame ſpecies*; but this aſſumed confidence does not convince us of his courage, for no naturaliſt has ever oppoſed the opinion. Linnæus and Buffon, who agree in little elſe, think the ſame in this reſpect; and the latter has given us a chart, comprehending all the varieties of this animal, from his fancied original the ſheep-dog, adding the probable degree of its change, and the reaſons of it. Though we have ſtyled the original *fancied*, yet there is much reaſon for agreeing in his opinion, though many of his arguments are viſionary. He finds, for inſtance, that all the wild dogs, who are either aborigines, or by want of cultivation have again de-

generated, are ſimilar to the ſheep-dog; but the ſimilarity is only that of all animals of prey, a thin body, ſharp eyes, and a heavy melancholy look: a better reaſon is, that it is, in ſome meaſure, a mean between the chubby bull-dog and the delicate greyhound; and if there muſt have been an original, from which the reſt have deſcended, this is probably the animal. To thoſe who cannot conceive how theſe diverſities can have ariſen, we ſhall give a ſhort view of his chart. All dogs, as they advance in the temperate regions, grow more ſtrong in their make, and leſs pointed in their noſes, till they feel the chilling cold of the artic circle, which has the ſame effect on all animals, viz. to prevent their arrival at any degree of perfection. The ſhepherds dog, in the temperate climates, is chilled in the cold of Lapland, but continues nearly unchanged in Iceland, wolf, and Siberian dogs. In more civilized countries and warmer climates, it is the bull dog, the beagle, and Iriſh greyhound. The hound, in Spain and Barbary will become the ſpaniel, and the water-dog; and the ſpaniel, by cultivation, has been infinitely varied. In the North, the Iriſh greyhound becomes the great Daniſh dog, and the Iriſh dog; and, in the South, the common greyhound. The bull-dog in Denmark becomes the little Daniſh dog, and, in the warm parts of Aſia, the Turkiſh dog without hair. Theſe are the chief varieties; M. Buffon has extended his chart, but this is ſufficient for our purpoſe.

The two next Eſſays are on the horſe and the huntſman. In the former, the proper uſeful hunter is diſtinctly deſcribed; in the latter, he points out the conduct of the huntſman in the chace, rather than gives directions for the choice of a ſervant of this kind. In theſe eſſays we meet with little real information.

The Letters on Hunting ſeem to be the production of a different pen. They are chiefly in praiſe of hare-hunting, with ſome reflections on fox-hunters, which theſe gentlemen will feel ſeverely, and probably reſent with aſperity. We have already exhibited a fox-hunt, let us now attend to the hare.

'In January, February, and March, gentlemen hunt in ſome parts till the twenty-fifth, they ſeat moſt uncertain, and wander ſuch a vaſt circuit, an indifferent huntſman may trail all day long, and not ſtart. What adds to their uncertain forming, beſides the ſeaſon of bucking, is, they are ſo liable, under warm, dry hedges and brambles, to be peſtered with piſmires, or moleſted with vipers, and ſuch vermin, that they prefer the open fields and ploughed lands.

'Let us imagine, that by this time the huntſman has cried ſo-ho! Obſerve how the heroes preſs together, and parley over the imagined victim. Pride of their eager hearts, and glory of the field! How each (e'er ſhe leaps from form) wiſely pronounces on ſize

ſize or gender. The unexperienced youth, with eyes convulſed, and phyz diſtort and pale, in imperfect, haſty ſtammers, proclaims a ſlamming bitch; whilſt ſome graver ſire (whom age and experience bid be poſitive) with paralytic nods, and aſpect ſour, portending contradiction, affirms ſhe is ſmall and young, learned ſage! Others, in joyful confuſion, amaze, and ſuſpence, ſcarce diſtinguiſh whether it is a hare or not. The huntſman, on whom for ſuperior knowlege each dependent is, from maxims of his own, arbitrarily decides the ſex. But to ſuch wiſeacres, who pretend with certainty from the whiteneſs of one part, or redneſs of another, to diſtinguiſh buck from doe, it may be ſaid, there is but male and female; and the man, who never ſaw a hare in his life, but declares his opinion at random, it is a toſs-up if he is not as often right as the wiſeſt of them. But to proceed, as we have imagined a ſo-ho! we may as well ſuppoſe ſhe is actually on foot. Hark! the hills and woods reſound the loud acclaim.

'Now the leaden-heeled hind and brawny peaſant, with hob-nailed ſhoone, labour o'er the clod; the inſect world tremble at their tread, the hardy woodman ſpeeds from toil, the plowman quits the unfiniſhed furrow; all ſcamper over the plain, multiplying as they go. Soome armed with clubs or ſtaves, in leathern jerkins clad; others the flail or dung-fork wield, and in frocks of white or azure hue (ſuccinct for ſpeed) terrific ſeem. Each generous heart diſdains to lay behind. Now no diſtinction rules. The king, the keiſer, the lord, the hind fellows alike, and competitors in the field. Now huntſman lay in your dogs well, and rather whiſper than bellow to them, till they undertake it, and go on full cry. Follow yourſelf at a due diſtance, and, as occaſion requires, recheat them; if you have not a horn call them two or three times together, ſoftly! ſoftly! for nought but general emulation reigns, ſire with ſon, and ſon with ſire contend; impetuous drive the dogs. Beware the unexperienced ſportſman, whether on foot or horſeback, be ſure check his forwardneſs, many people think a chief part of hunting conſiſts in hollowing loud, and running, or riding hard, but they are miſtaken, and ſuch perſons, gentle or ſimple, muſt not be offended if the huntſman ſwears at them; he has a right to do ſo. No tongue can be allowed but his, nor, at this time, no foot more forward than his own.

'A cloſeneſs on the dogs, it is well known, hurries them too much, being apt of themſelves, in their firſt heat of mettle, to overſhoot the game. Many hours ſad ſport has happened from driving the hounds too faſt, and confounding them with the hollowing of the company, or a noiſy blockhead of a huntſman or whipper-in.

'As puſs takes her circuit, judgment is often made of her gender. A buck gives ſuſpicion by beating the hard paths, ſtoney highways, and taking a ring of a large extent in proportion to the compaſs of his feed and exerciſe, which may be gueſſed at, from the quantity of ground the dogs trailed over. It being worthy of

notice, that in the progreſs of the chace, a hare will go over great part of the trailed land, and viſit her works of the preceding night and morning, unleſs ſhe takes endways, which after a ring or ſo, a buck is apt to do; and loiter a vaſt way on freſh ground, without offering to return.

'The doe now and then doubles in a ſhort ſpace, and ſeldom holds an end, unleſs knit; or at the end of the ſeaſon has kindled. At ſuch times ſhe often runs forward, and ſcarce ever returns to her young, or eſcapes with life; being naturally weak and unfit for fatigue.'

But we will not *fatigue* our readers in this toilſome chace, the *literary hunter* will certainly prefer the fox-chace. The demon Faſhion, and the more dreadful ſpectre Ennui, we believe, impells each party, and many things are ſo far ſanctified by cuſtom, that, though we feel their galling chain, yet we dare not reſiſt; like Piſtol with his leek, we execrate, yet we eat on.

The ſubject of Harriers is again diſcuſſed. Horace has ſaid, 'Fortes creantur fortibus et bonis'; but Horace never bred beagles, for our author tells us, that, notwithſtanding all our care and vigilance, 'litter after litter, ſometimes prove falſe and degenerate, from as high-bred creatures as any in the kingdom.' Whatever may be the effects of a change of climate, in varying the ſpecies, yet we find little permanent variety from a different culture. If we croſs the breed, and procure dogs of peculiar qualifications, yet in a few races the peculiarity is again loſt. It is an obſervation of Buffon's, that dogs are eight times farther from their original, than man from Adam; for this reaſon, that, in a given time, there are eight times as many races of the one, as of the other. In this way he alſo endeavours to account for the great number of varieties of this animal; but, if it had any effect, we could more plainly perceive it in hares and rabbits, who are remarkably prolific, and admit, if the beſt naturaliſts may be believed, of ſuperfœtation. There is however another method of varying the kind, by effects of the imagination. We ſhall give the ſtory from our author, with this ſingle obſervation, that thoſe who *can believe*, will be very readily able to account for it.

'Talking with a learned phyſician (a great connoiſſeur in pointing and ſetting dogs) upon the ſubject of puppies, he told the following marvellous tale of a bitch he had of the ſetting kind.

'As he travelled from Midhurſt into Hampſhire, going through a country village, the maſtiffs and cur-dogs ran out barking, as is uſual when gentlemen ride by ſuch places; among them he obſerved a little ugly pedlar's cur particularly eager and fond of ingratiating himſelf with the bitch. The doctor ſtopped to water upon the ſpot, and whilſt his horſe drank, could not help remarking how amorous the cur continued, and how fond and courteous

courteous the bitch ſeemed to her admirer; but provoked in the end, to ſee a creature of Phillis's rank and breed, ſo obſequious to ſuch mean addreſſes, drew one of his piſtols and ſhot the dog dead on the ſpot; then alighted, and taking the bitch into his arms, carried her before him ſeveral miles. The Doctor relates farther, that madam, from that day, would eat little or nothing, having in a manner loſt her appetite, ſhe had no inclination to go abroad with her maſter, or come when he called; but ſeemed to repine like a creature in love, and expreſs ſenſible concern for the loſs of her gallant.

'Partridge ſeaſon came on, but ſhe had no noſe; the Doctor did not take the bird before her. However, in proceſs of time, Phillis waxed proud. The Doctor was heartily glad of it, and phyſically apprehended it would be a means of weaning her from all thoughts of her deceaſed admirer; accordingly he had her confined in due time, and warded by an admirable ſetter of high blood, which the Doctor galloped his grey ſtone-horſe forty miles an end to fetch for the purpoſe And, that no accident might happen from the careleſſneſs of drunken, idle ſervants, the charge was committed to a truſty old woman houſekeeper; and, as abſence from patients would permit, the Doctor aſſiduouſly attended the affair himſelf. But lo! when the days of whelping came, Phillis did not produce one puppy but what was, in all reſpects, the very picture and colour of the poor dog he had ſhot ſo many months before the bitch was in heat.

'This affair not more ſurprized than enraged the Doctor. For ſome time he differed, almoſt to parting, with his old faithful houſekeeper, being unjuſtly jealous of her care; ſuch behaviour before ſhe never knew from him, but, alas, what remedy? He kept the bitch many years, yet, to his infinite concern, ſhe never brought a litter, but exactly ſimilar to the pedlar's cur. He diſpoſed of her to a friend of his in a neighbouring county, but to no purpoſe, the vixen ſtill brought ſuch puppies. Whence the Doctor tenaciouſly maintained, bitch and dog may fall paſſionately in love with each other.

'That ſuch creatures, eſpecially the female, may at particular times like, or prefer, I grant the Doctor; but how the impreſſion of the dog (admitting to favour him there was any) could occaſion ſimilitude in the iſſue of the bitch, and for a continuance of years, after the dog's death, nobody but the Doctor is capable of defending, who to this day relates and juſtifies the truth of every circumſtance I have mentioned. So much for dogs, harriers eſpecially. I hope the digreſſion will be pardoned, and, if not diſagreeable, I ſhall proceed with a page on the Quarry.'

The author then attends to hares; he finds little reaſon to admire that acute foreſight and inſtinctive cunning, which have been attributed to this timid animal. In fact, thoſe who have been deceived, are willing to attribute the miſtake to any thing

beſides their own ignorance. There are ſome curious remarks on this ſubject, and a ſatisfactory detection of the errors of thoſe naturaliſts who copy, when they ſhould have examined.

The other letters are more technical, and conſiſt of directions to ſportſmen. They cannot eaſily be abridged, and we have already extended this article beyond its bounds.

The Prophecies, and other Texts, cited in the New Teſtament, compared with the Hebrew Original and with the Septuagint Verſion. To which are added Notes. By Thomas Randolph, D. D. Preſident of C. C. C. Oxford, and Lady Margaret's Profeſſor of Divinity. 4*to.* 2*s.* 6*d.* Rivington.

MANY objections have been raiſed againſt the evangelical writers, on account of the ſeeming inaccuracy of their citations from the Old Teſtament. It has been alleged, that ſome of their quotations are not agreeable to the Hebrew, and that others are applied to circumſtances and events, which are very different from the meaning of the original. Some of the advocates of Chriſtianity have attempted to remove theſe objections by obſerving, that the ſacred writers made uſe of the Greek verſion of the Old Teſtament, called the Septuagint. This, however, is not always the caſe. Biſhop Wetenhall, Mr. Spearman, Dr. Sykes, and others, have ſtated and examined theſe citations, and have endeavoured to vindicate their uſe and application in the New Teſtament. But we do not recollect, that any one has given us ſuch a diſtinct view of the correſponding paſſages in the Hebrew, the Septuagint, and the New Teſtament, as the learned author of this publication.

An Index in Leigh's Critica Sacra makes the number of citations 286. In one of Maittaire's, at the end of his Greek Teſtament, the number is 244. According to Spearman, who ſtrikes off thoſe paſſages, which are only references and alluſions to places in the Old Teſtament, and counts the ſame texts but once, which are cited ſeveral times, the number is 164.

Dr. Randolph has given us 179 parallel paſſages, with references to thoſe that are cited in different places.

His computation is as follows:

1. Citations agreeing exactly with the Hebrew, 63.
2. Agreeing nearly with the Hebrew, 63.
3. Agreeing in ſenſe with the Hebrew, but not in words, 24.
4. Giving the general ſenſe, but abridging or adding to it, 8.
5. Taken from ſeveral paſſages of SS. 3.
6. Differing from the Hebrew, but agreeing with the Septuagint, 6.
7. Citations, where we have reaſon to ſuſpect, that the Apoſtles

Apoſtles either read the Hebrew differently, or put ſome ſenſe upon the words different from what our Lexicons expreſs, 21.

8. Places where the Hebrew ſeems to be corrupted, 8.
9. Not properly citations, but references or alluſions, 3.

Index II.

1. Citations agreeing verbatim with the Septuagint, or only changing the perſon, &c. 72.
2. Taken from the Septuagint, but with ſome variation, 47.
3. Agreeing in ſenſe, but not in words with the Septuagint, 30.
4. Differing from the Septuagint, but agreeing exactly, or nearly with the Hebrew, 13.
5. Differing both from the Septuagint and from the Hebrew, and taken probably from ſome other tranſlation or paraphraſe, 19.

From this diſtinct and methodical repreſentation, we have at once a view of all the citations in the New Teſtament taken from the Old: on which we ſhall take the liberty to make two or three general obſervations.

1. Many of the citations in the New Teſtament are to be conſidered as mere alluſions, or applications of the words to the deſign in hand, without any regard to the ſcope and meaning of the author, from whom the expreſſions are cited. This is uſual and allowable in all writers, both ſacred and profane, and it is by no means neceſſary, on theſe occaſions, to adhere to the identical expreſſions of the original.

2. It is not probable that the Greek verſion, *as we now have it*, was extant in the time of the Apoſtles. Jerom ſeems to think, that the tranſlation made at Alexandria, in the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus, comprehended only the five books of Moſes: "Ariſteus et Joſephus, et omnis ſchola Judæorum, quinque tantùm libros Moyſi à LXX. tranſlatos aſſerant" Comment. in Ezech. c. v. 12. When the reſt were tranſlated, it is perhaps impoſſible to determine.—A curious inquirer may anſwer this queſtion: in how many, and in which of the books of the Old Teſtament, do we find our preſent Greek tranſlation clearly and *indiſputably* cited by the Evangeliſts and Apoſtles? The anſwer will ſhew, that the ſaid Greek tranſlation of thoſe books was extant at the time, in which the New Teſtament was written.

3. Admitting, that there was extant, in the age of the Apoſtles, a Greek verſion of *all* the books of the Old Teſtament, it is not probable, that each of the writers of the New Teſtament had complete copies, which were at that time ſcarce and expenſive. Nor is it probable, that they ſhould have their MSS. always at hand. When St. Paul wrote his ſecond epiſtle

to Timothy from Rome, ſome of his 'books and parchments' were at Troas. This conſideration eaſily and naturally accounts for their irregular citations; for their ſometimes giving the ſenſe of the Hebrew, ſometimes that of the Septuagint, ſometimes that of other verſions, as they had an opportunity of conſultation; and ſometimes for their only quoting by memory, inaccurately and imperfectly. St. Jerom, treating of that paſſage in Micah, which is cited by St. Matthew, c. ii. 6. 'Thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda,' ſays, 'Hoc teſtimonium nec Hebraico nec LXX. interpretibus convenire perſpicuum eſt.' He adds, 'Sunt qui aſſerant, in omnibus penè teſtimoniis, quæ de Veteri Teſtamento ſumuntur, iſtiuſmodi eſſe errorem, ut aut ordo mutetur, aut verba, & interdum ſenſus quoque ipſe diverſus ſit, vel apoſtolis vel evangeliſtis non ex libro carpentibus teſtimonia, ſed *memoriæ* credentibus, quæ non nunquam *fallitur*.' Comment. in Mich. c. v. 2.

4. We muſt not conclude, as ſome writers have done, very raſhly and illogically, the Septuagint has been *corrupted* in thoſe places, in which we do not find thoſe very thoughts, expreſſions, or prophecies, in that verſion, which we do in the Hebrew, or in the citations made by the writers of the New Teſtament. The Seventy Elders were, in the firſt place, very moderately acquainted with the Hebrew language; they have committed many conſiderable errors, and in almoſt innumerable places have given us a looſe and paraphraſtic verſion, adding or omitting many paſſages in a very arbitrary manner. Beſides, the books of the Old Teſtament were, according to all accounts, tranſlated by different perſons, who were very differently qualified for that employment. In the next place, the tranſlators were no *prophets*; and as they lived before the birth of Chriſt*, they could not poſſibly ſee, nor underſtand, nor conceive, all the prophecies, or prophetic circumſtances, relating to our Saviour in the ſame light, in which they appeared to the Apoſtles and Evangeliſts; or in which they now appear to Chriſtian writers, who are directed in theſe inquiries by the light of the Goſpel hiſtory. Theſe conſiderations will account for the omiſſion, the perverſion, or the imperfect repreſentation of thoſe prophetical characters and incidents, which were afterwards applied to Jeſus Chriſt. Thus the words of Hoſea, ch. xi. 1. 'I called my ſon out of Egypt,' &c. were very naturally tranſlated, 'When Iſrael was a child, and I loved him, and called his children out of Egypt; as I called them, ſo they went from my face.' Here is no reaſon to ſuppoſe, that the Greek text, in this paſſage,

* Septuag. Tranſl. 270 years before Chriſt.

has

has been wilfully corrupted. The tranſlators have made the prophet ſpeak agreeably to the known fact, and nothing more could be expected from them.

5. Our author ſuppoſes, that the Hebrew text, in ſome of the prophecies relating to Chriſt, have been corrupted by the Jews. And he obſerves, 'that the places they have corrupted are generally ſo unintelligible, and agree ſo little with the context, that their forgeries betray themſelves.' In ſupport of this opiniom, he produces inſtances from Pſal. xxii. xl. 6. cx. Iſa. liii. Amos ix. 12. His obſervations are learned and ingenious; but the argument, we apprehend, is not concluſive, becauſe a tranſcriber may make a paſſage obſcure or abſurd through oſcitancy as well as deſign.

This work will be of great uſe to thoſe, who are employed in the ſtudy of the Greek Teſtament, and wiſh to enter into the foregoing inquiries. The plan is judicious, and the notes candid and impartial.

An Introduction to Natural Philoſophy. Illuſtrated with Copper Plates. By William Nicholſon. 2 vols. 8vo. 14s. in Boards. Johnſon.

IT is with pleaſure that we introduce to the world a publication the utility of which extends to all the human race, and of late years has been much wanted. In the firſt dawning of the modern philoſophy, men of the greateſt reputation did not think it beneath them to write or compile introductory treatiſes on the ſubject; though, by the nature of ſuch works, they were prevented from enlarging on their own particular diſcoveries, and conſequently in ſome meaſure deprived of the celebrity which might have ariſen from employing their pens on writings of another kind. But if we may judge from the ſcarcity of theſe productions in the preſent age, it ſeems proper to affirm, that the ſincere and almoſt enthuſiaſtic deſire to promote the general knowlege of philoſophical ſubjects, which animated thoſe early writers, is ſcarcely to be found among the learned of our times. We are glad to ſee Mr. Nicholſon an exception to this remark. The general arrangement of the matter, and the conciſeneſs and elegance of his ſtyle, are ſuch as indicate abilities, induſtry, and an intimate acquaintance with the ſubject. He has given a clear, rational, and unprejudiced account of the preſent ſtate of natural philoſophy, which may be read and underſtood by thoſe who are unacquainted with the mathematics, yet without vitiating their taſte, if they ſhould be induced to enter more deeply into the ſtudy; and at the ſame time his book cannot

be unacceptable as a manual to the truly learned. This is general praiſe; it is now our duty to enter into particulars.

This work is dedicated to Sir Joſeph Banks, preſident of the Royal Society. The dedication is followed by a preface which contains an animated encomium on the excellence of natural philoſophy, and a modeſt account of the treatiſe itſelf. It is divided into three books, beſides a ſhort general introduction.

The firſt book is divided into four ſections. Section I. Of matter in the abſtract. Sect. II. Of bodies in motion. Sect. III. Of aſtronomy. Sect. IV. Of the general effects of gravitation. Speaking of the properties of matter, he has placed the controverſy relating to its impenetrability in a clear light, and ſeems inclined to reject M. Boſcovich's hypotheſis of its abſolute penetrability (p. 18.) He has likewiſe noted a circumſtance reſpecting the inertia which has been very little attended to; namely, that the quantity of matter cannot be proved to be as the inertia, though almoſt generally taken as ſuch. (p. 21, 22.) The ſecond Section contains an explanation of the principles of mechanical inſtruments, which at the concluſion are comprehended in this general rule (p. 69.)

'*If* two weights applied to the terms of any mechanical engine be to each other in the reciprocal proportion of the perpendicular ſpaces which would be deſcribed when in motion; they will be in equilibrio.'

This Section likewiſe contains an elucidation of the motions of bodies which reſpect the center of gravity.

Section III. contains aſtronomy, or an account of the celeſtial phenomena. In books of aſtronomy we are uſually informed that the ſun is in the midſt of the planetary ſyſtem, that the planets revolve about him in orbits of which he is nearly the center, &c. &c. but not being told at the ſame time how this knowlege was originally acquired, it is not unuſual for the ſuperficially learned to believe that the Copernican ſyſtem is merely an ingenious invention which the faſhion of the day ſupports, but which muſt, in its turn, give way to a new ſyſtem, in the ſame manner as it has ſuperſeded the old hypotheſis of Ptolemy. Our author appears to have been aware of this; and the method he has adopted cannot be better ſhewn than by quoting one of thoſe elegant prefatory introductions, with which he frequently begins any new ſubject. (p. 86, & ſeq.)

'In the early ages of the world it is more than probable that the ſciences originated from the wants of mankind. The mechanic arts were invented to forward the labours of agriculture, and thoſe works which are neceſſary to make life comfortable. Geometry

metry was invented for the purpoſe of marking the limits or quantity of lands; and an accurate obſervation of the returns of the ſeaſons were required that the proprietor might with certainty know when to expect his crop. Hence the origin of aſtronomy. Perhaps this ſcience might have been long applied to no other uſe than that of dividing time, if the natural fertility of the human invention had not attributed to the heavenly bodies the functions of ſuperintending the fates of men. The conſciouſneſs of the exiſtence of a Deity being the immediate conſequence of the conſciouſneſs of ſelf-exiſtence, it was natural to wiſh for the knowledge of his intention and our duty. Whether reaſon, unaſſiſted by revelation, be adequate to the taſk of gratifying this wiſh, is a queſtion foreign to our preſent purpoſe; but certain it is, that the ancients inſtead of enquiring with that coolneſs and caution which are ſo neceſſary in any reſearch whatſoever, did, on the contrary, give rein to their imagination, and formed a ſyſtem of theology, which, though highly inconſiſtent, was almoſt univerſally received till the introduction of Chriſtianity. Inſtead of attending to the idea of One omnipotent and omniſcient, they invented an innumerable hoſt of ſubordinate deities, each of whom governed in his reſpective province. The ſeven erratic bodies, viz. the Sun, Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, and Mercury, were ſuppoſed to be under the immediate direction of as many gods of different tempers and diſpoſitions. Plants, animals, and even men were claſſed out to each of theſe gods, and a chimerical ſcience was laid down for the prediction of future events, from the relative ſituations or aſpects of the celeſtial bodies. This was called aſtrology, and is not at this day entirely exploded. A motive ſo important and gratifying to the anxious curioſity of man, could not fail to produce a conſtant obſervation of theſe aſpects; and by that obſervation the knowledge of aſtronomy had made a conſiderable progreſs, while more obvious ſciences were yet in their infancy.

'By the earlieſt accounts it appears probable that the orientals were firſt acquainted with the true ſyſtem of the world; Pythagoras having obtained that knowledge during his travels in India which he afterwards taught in Magna Græcia. Let us paſs by the various and intricate ſchemes by which philoſophers attempted to reſolve the celeſtial appearances till the ancient ſyſtem of the world was revived by Copernicus, whoſe name it has ever ſince retained. Let us ſuppoſe ourſelves in the ſituation of the oriental ſages to whom the diſcovery is attributed, and by tracing the ſteps by which it was made, we ſhall exhibit a clear idea of it, at the ſame time that we expoſe the proofs by which we are induced to receive it as truth.'

After the Introduction he leads his reader into the open air, to contemplate the motions and ſituations of the heavenly bodies, and by the moſt obvious and natural remarks he deduces their real from their apparent motions. In theſe particulars

we

we think him remarkably happy in his illuſtration, at the ſame time that he enlivens a ſubject, in itſelf ſublime and intereſting, by introducing occaſional reflections and modeſt conjectures on the final cauſes of the ſeveral appearances. We ſhall preſent our readers with the following extract, as a ſpecimen of his manner of entering into a ſubject of dubious enquiry. (p. 148.)

'Hypotheſes, or conjectures are only allowable in natural philoſophy when, for want of experimental or actual obſervations, a leſs fallible mode of proceeding cannot be adopted. They are of uſe chiefly to point out the ſeries of enquiries neceſſary to enable the philoſopher to confirm or reject them. Till thoſe enquiries are made, care muſt be taken not to admit them for more than their real value. The very plauſible hypotheſes of the philoſophers who preceded the immortal Newton were received for a time, but, not being founded on a conſtant recurrence to phenomena, they are now no longer remembered but as proofs, that the greateſt human underſtanding is unequal to the taſk of deducing the appearances of nature by arguments *à priori*.

'The obſervations which might confirm the hypotheſes of planetary worlds, ſeem to be placed beyond our power. We can ſcarce hope to make optical inſtruments ſufficiently perfect to render their inhabitants viſible to us. The groſs air, with which we are ſurrounded, is a great impediment to the uſe of thoſe we already poſſeſs, and limits their perfection to a certain degree, beyond which we cannot paſs. All, therefore, that we can do, is to examine if the planets are accommodated with thoſe things which we are uſed to conſider as neceſſary to animal exiſtence. Lands, ſeas, clouds, vapours, and an atmoſphere or body of air, are objects which we may expect to find on the face of a habitable world; what has been done in this reſpect it is our preſent buſineſs to relate.'

The cauſe of the ſeaſons and of the varying length of days is too complex to be eaſily underſtood by a mere reader, without the aſſiſtance of an orrery, or ſome other inſtrument of that nature. Mr. Nicholſon has treated the ſubject in a manner much more ſimple and intelligible than we remember to have ſeen, and which we are of opinion will be readily underſtood without any extraordinary degree of attention.

The ſection is concluded by reflections on the final cauſes of the fixed ſtars and the magnitude of the univerſe. This has been conſidered by every writer on aſtronomy; but the grandeur of the ideas will always give it importance, and command the attention. Our author has treated this ſubject with his uſual force and perſpicuity. (p. 181.)

'In conſidering the prodigious magnitude of the ſpace in which the fixed ſtars are placed, it does not ſeem rational to ſuppoſe that ſuch

ſuch vaſt bodies as they muſt neceſſarily be, were created for no other purpoſe than to afford us a glimmering light in the abſence of the ſun. If that were the intention of their exiſtence, why have the teleſcopic ſtars twinkled unſeen till theſe later ages? Certainly the ſuppoſition agrees very ill with the adequacy of the agent to the effect, which we find to prevail in all the inſtances to which our knowledge extends. We have already ſpoken of the minute objects which, though organized and poſſeſſing ſpecific qualities, are not large enough to come under the obſervation of ſenſe: let us advert to the other limit, and contemplate thoſe magnitudes which exceed the power of our imaginations by reaſon of their vaſtneſs.

'We ſee but a ſmall part of the univerſe. The viſible horizon is ſcarcely more than a degree in diameter, yet that diſtance is the greateſt of which we can form any real conception. Our clear ideas of number enable us to proceed with certainty in our ſpeculations, but our imaginations are not by that means enlarged. Thus we can prove that the diſtance of the ſun exceeds the diameter of the horizon above eight hundred thouſand times, but cannot from thence form any notion of a diſtance ſo great. We may proceed farther, and demonſtrate that the diſtance of the neareſt fixed ſtar exceeds that of the ſun in a ratio much beyond this laſt mentioned; becauſe if it did not, the ſtar would have a ſenſible annual parallax. Not to ſtop here; ſince the number of fixed ſtars is indefinitely great, greater numbers being always ſeen the more perfect the teleſcope; and ſince there is reaſon to think they are as far diſtant from each other as from us, this laſt diſtance muſt be indefinitely magnified before any ſuppoſition of the diameter of the univerſe can be formed. This magnitude not only exceeeds all imagination, but is even beyond the power of numbers!—The Creator of the fabrick alone can comprehend the infinite expanſion. Here it is that our obſervations fail us, and our knowledge is of neceſſity reduced to hypotheſis. That which is generally received is founded on the following analogical proof.

'It muſt be remembered, when ſpeaking of parallax, it was ſhewn that the baſe between the two ſtations of an obſerver is always ſeen from the object under the ſame angle as the parallax. The neareſt fixed ſtar has no annual parallax; therefore the diameter of the annual orbit, if viewed from the neareſt fixed ſtar, would ſubtend no ſenſible angle and à fortiori, the ſun itſelf would appear no more than as a luminous point; that is to ſay, as a fixed ſtar. Whence it follows that the ſtars muſt be equal to the ſun in bulk; or in other words that they are ſuns. The ſame argument of the inſenſibility of the parallax, not to mention the imbecility of their light, will prove that the planets could not be viſible at the diſtance of a fixed ſtar. It is therefore no derogation from the probability of every fixed ſtar's being accompanied by a ſyſtem of planets, to ſay we do not ſee them; ſince that is proved to be impoſſible, even granting them to exiſt. Conſequently

quently the moſt rational hypotheſis of the final purpoſe of ſo many ſuns is, that they are ordained to diſtribute light and heat to an immenſe number of worlds that attend on them.'

Section IV. is employed on the general effects of gravitation. We have remarked a great attention to order and accuracy throughout this work, ſcarcely any argument being ever made uſe of, which has not been previouſly eſtabliſhed in ſome former part of the treatiſe: but in this ſection, it was neceſſary to deviate from that rule, in order to avoid a maſs of mathematical reaſoning beyond the capacities of thoſe for whom the book appears to be principally intended. Our author has aſſumed as poſtulates four theorems from the Principia; from which, after the manner of Newton, he deduces the phyſical cauſes of the planetary motions. He has been particularly attentive to the lunar irregularities; and in rendering this complicate and difficult ſubject popular and intelligible, he has ſhewn a degree of addreſs and ingenuity which does him great credit: from this explanation the motion of the apſides, preceſſion of the equinoxes, figures of the planets, nutation of the poles, and the tides are readily accounted for.

The ſecond book is likewiſe divided into four ſections, two of which, relating to light and colours, and optics, are contained in the firſt volume. This book is introduced by a chapter 'on the limited ſtate of the human faculties,' which we are ſorry our limits will not permit us to tranſcribe. For, not to mention the evil conſequences which have ariſen from not conſidering this circumſtance, we have peruſed it with much pleaſure, as an inſtance of the ſtrong and liberal turn of mind of its author, whoſe habit of 'looking without prejudice into the regions of conjecture,' we have had frequent reaſon to admire.

He has conſidered the hypotheſis of Euler, who, in his letters to a German princeſs, is very earneſt in eſtabliſhing the doctrine of light being cauſed by an undulating medium, which Mr. Nicholſon controverts by ſhewing that the undulations of an elaſtic fluid ought not to proceed univerſally in right lines as light is found to do. It ſeems wonderful that a philoſopher of Euler's eminence ſhould overlook ſo obvious an objection to his theory; which however we do not think abſolutely unanſwerable, though it muſt be allowed that Newton's hypotheſis is exceedingly more ſimple and rational.

At the end of Newton's Optics (qu. 29.) that great philoſopher affirms that 'nothing more is requiſite for producing all the variety of colours and degrees of refrangibility, than that the rays of light be bodies of different ſizes, the leaſt of which may take the violet, the weakeſt and darkeſt of all the colours, and be more eaſily diverted by refracting ſubſtances from

from the right courſe; and the reſt as they are bigger and bigger may take the ſtronger and more lucid colours, blue, green, yellow, and red, and be more and more difficultly diverted.' This idea has been adopted without heſitation by every writer ſince his time; but Mr. Nicholſon ſhews that it is ill-founded (p. 324.) and that the varying refrangibility of the rays of light cannot depend at all on their maſſes or ſizes, but is cauſed by the attraction excited between bodies and the rays of light being ſtronger on ſome rays than others after the ratio of their maſſes.

Section II. treats of optics. Opticians have invented various methods of explaining how it happens that we behold objects erect while it is certain the image formed on the expanſion of the optic nerve is inverted. Theſe difficulties might readily have been overcome, if the writers had conſidered that poſition is not an object of the ſenſe of ſight; for, as our author ſhews (p. 346.)

'Theſe notions' reſpecting poſition 'are derived from a perception of the direction in which gravity conſtantly acts; to which direction we always refer: whence it happens, that though the poſition of the eye be ever ſo much changed, the idea of the poſition of objects in view remains unchanged. For example; if a man view an upright pole or ſtaff, the image of the pole on the retina will be at right angles to the opening of the eyelids, provided he holds his head upright; but if he vary the poſition of his head, the image will be formed in a different poſition, and upon a different part of the retina: notwithſtanding which he conſtantly imagines the pole to be erect and unaltered'

The phenomenon of the large apparent ſize of the horizontal moon, which we likewiſe think has been treated by philoſophical writers as a matter of more importance than it really is, our author explains with great clearneſs (p. 366.)

The ſecond volume of this ingenious workt reats of Hydroſtatics, Pneumatics, Chemiſtry, Air, and Electricity; the three laſt of which have become almoſt entirely new ſciences ſince the laſt publication of a book of this kind. We muſt poſtpone our account of theſe to a future Number, and conclude, for the preſent, by recommending this uſeful publication to the notice of thoſe who are deſirous of acquiring philoſophcal knowlege.

Sketches on the Art of Painting; with a Deſcription of the moſt capital Pictures in the King of Spain's Palace at Madrid. Tranſlated by John Talbot Dillon, Knight, and Baron of the Sacred Roman Empire. 12*mo.* 2*s.* Baldwin.

SIR Anthony Raphael Mengs, the author of theſe Sketches, was firſt painter to his Catholic majeſty, who was ſo great an admirer of his works, that he not only liberally rewarded

him

him during his life, but provided for his family after his deceaſe. He was generally eſteemed an excellent copyiſt, a character which his School of Athens from Raphael, now at Northumberland houſe, fairly entitle him to. Leaving, however, his merits as a painter to the judges of the art, we have only to conſider him as a writer, in which capacity he appears to no great advantage. This performance contains little more than a few common-place remarks on deſign, compoſition, clair-obſcure, &c. in a ſtyle rather turgid and affected, and ſometimes obſcure and unintelligible. He tell us that 'a perfect piece of painting ſhould always have ſomething *ideal*, depending upon a choice of parts, originated in nature, concentring with our ideas, ſo adapted as to cauſe a proper effect, when judiciouſly united by the powers of art. In this depends the talent of the profeſſor to give a pictureſque appearance to his ideas, and form ſuch an union as will cauſe a particular ſenſation on the ſpectator.'

Speaking of the *ſublime* ſtyle, our ſublime author informs us that 'the grand point in theſe compoſitions, is to combine an unity of ideas, between the poſſible and impoſſible; for which purpoſe, the artiſt muſt employ known appearances, and forms of a perfection beyond the line of poſſibility; and in thoſe parts which he takes from nature, he muſt abſtract all the ſigns of mechaniſm even from nature itſelf.'—Thoſe of our readers who can tell what Mr. Mengs, or his tranſlator, means by *particular ſenſations*, and the *ſigns of mechaniſm*, muſt have more ſagacity and penetration than we pretend to poſſeſs.—To ſeveral obſervations of this kind our author has added a laboured deſcription of ſome fine pictures in the palace at Madrid: as this is the beſt part of the performance, we ſhall give a ſhort extract from the account of Raphael's famous pictures known by the name of our Lady dello Spaſimo.

'The ſubject (ſays he) is taken from ſcripture, when the women wept on ſeeing our Saviour bearing the croſs to Mount Calvary; and he ſaid to them, foretelling the deſtruction of Jeruſalem, "Daughters of Jeruſalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourſelves, and for your children!" To give more grace to his compoſition, Raphael has added a diſtant view of Mount Calvary, winding to the right, where it is thought our Lord fell the firſt time, when a ruffian pulls him by a rope, tied round his waiſt. It is to be ſuppoſed, that this picture being intended for the church before mentioned, the friars who were to have it, were deſirous, that the bleſſed Virgin ſhould be repreſented; or it might have been the choice of the painter; be that as it may, Raphael well knew how to give every figure its utmoſt grace and dignity, and to treat his ſubject with infinite majeſty.

'Having

'Having to repreſent on this occaſion the figure of a mother, of one going to the place of execution, and treated impiouſly by the people, he choſe the unhappy ſtate of an afflicted mother, obliged to intercede with an infamous mob, to have compaſſion on the ſufferer. In this diſtreſs, Raphael has painted our lady kneeling, not looking towards her ſon, to whom ſhe could give no relief, but in the act of the moſt efficacious ſupplication, repreſenting, that having fallen, he is in need of the pity of him, who is pulling him by the rope, in order to riſe. To this humble poſture he gives a *relief*, by placing near her, Mary Magdalen, St. John, and the other Marys, who condole with her, and give ſuccour to the mother of their lord, ſupporting her in their arms.

'Theſe figures are highly expreſſive of the deepeſt concern for the ſufferings of our ſaviour, particularly Mary Magdalen, who ſeems, as it were, ſpeaking to Jeſus Chriſt, while St. John is giving aid to our lady. Jeſus Chriſt, though fallen, is not dejected, nor faint, on the contrary, ſeems to threaten by what he utters, juſt as it is expreſſed in holy writ, his countenance, beſides being in this piece of an excellence, and beauty almoſt incomprehenſible, appears inflamed with a prophetic ſpirit, perfectly adapted to the ſubject, not only as the Son of God, though in ſufferance; but alſo ſuitable to the genius of Raphael, who never painted any feature indifferently, when the character could poſſibly be repreſented with dignity.

'The whole action of the figure is noble and animated; the left arm, with a fine hand, leaning on a ſtone, is quite extended; but the irregular folds of the ſleeve, ſhew the ſuddenneſs of the fall, and ſeem as it were, yet in motion, as if they had not recovered from the preſſure enſuing from the weight. With the right hand Jeſus Chriſt holds the croſs faſt, as if unwilling to yield it to the figure that ſeems aiming to eaſe him of it; a thought moſt worthy of the great Raphael, who, in an action, which to many would appear indifferent, recollected that Jeſus Chriſt ſuffered for our ſins, becauſe he choſe to do ſo.

'The variety is no leſs admirable, which he has diffuſed in the countenances of the executioners, exhibiting even in theſe the different ſtages of wickedneſs. That figure with his ſhoulders towards us, pulling Jeſus Chriſt by the rope, ſhews his only paſſion to be, a brutal deſire of hurrying on to the place of execution; the other, who lays hold of the croſs, ſeems touched with ſome degree of compaſſion, and willing to relieve the ſufferer: near him a ſoldier, placing the croſs with his hand on the ſhoulders of our Lord, and lifting his lance with

a threatening geſture, expreſſes the utmoſt inveteracy, and deſire to oppreſs the Lord ſtill more after his fall.'

The tranſlator has added an appendix, which contains an unintereſting relation of a conteſt between Malvaſia, and Victoria, a Spaniſh painter, concerning the above mentioned picture of the Spaſimo.

If any other parts of Mr. Mengs' works are intended for publication in England, we hope more judgment will be exerted in the ſelection, and more accuracy beſtowed on the tranſlation of them.

Philoſophical Tranſactions, of the Royal Society of London. Vol. LXXI. for the Year 1781. *Part II.* 4*to.* 10*s.* 6*d. in Boards.* L. Davis.

ARTICLE XV. New Experiments upon Gun powder, with occaſional Obſervations, and practical Inferences; to which is added, an Account of a new Method of determining the Velocities of all kinds of Military Projectiles, and the Deſcription of a very accurate Eprouvette for Gun-powder. By Benjamin Thompſon, Eſq. F. R. S.—Theſe experiments were begun in the year 1778, at Stoneland Lodge, a country ſeat of lord George Germain's; and appear to have been conducted with great care and aſſiduity. The firſt part contains a deſcription of the apparatus, the caution made uſe of previous to every trial, and a number of other particulars which can only be underſtood by referring to the article itſelf, and conſulting the plates annexed to it. We ſhall alſo paſs over thoſe parts which are involved in algebraical calculations, and give ſuch extracts only as will be thought more generally intereſting and uſeful.

'*Of the effect that the heat which pieces acquire in firing, produces upon the force of powder.*

'I have found, ſays Mr. Thompſon, that the force of any given charge of powder is conſiderably greater when it is fired in a piece that has been previouſly heated by firing, or by any other means, than when the piece has not been heated. Every body, that is acquainted with artillery, knows, that the recoil of great guns is much more violent after the ſecond or third diſcharge, than it is at firſt; and on ſhip board, where it is neceſſary to attend to the recoil of the guns, in order to prevent very dangerous accidents that might be occaſioned by it, the conſtant practice has been in our navy, and, I believe on board the ſhips of all other nations, to leſſen the quantity of powder after the firſt four or five rounds: our thirty-two pounders, for inſtance, are commonly fired with 24lbs. of powder at the beginning of an action; but the charge

charge is very ſoon reduced to 11lbs. and afterwards to 9lbs. and the filled cartridges are prepared accordingly.

'This augmentation of the force of powder, when it is fired in a piece that is warm, may be accounted for in the following manner: there is no ſubſtance that we are acquainted with that does not require to be heated before it will burn; even gunpowder is not inflammable when it is cold. Great numbers of ſparks, or red-hot particles from the flint and ſteel, are frequently ſeen to light upon the priming of a muſket, without ſetting fire to the powder, and grains of powder may be made to paſs through the flame of a candle without taking the fire; and what is ſtill more extraordinary, if large grains of powder are let fall from the height of two or three feet upon a red-hot plate of iron, laid at an angle of about 45° with the plane of the horizon, they will rebound entire without being burnt, or in the leaſt altered, by the experiment. In all theſe caſes the fire is too feeble, or the duration of its action not ſufficiently long, to heat the powder to that degree which is neceſſary in order to its being rendered inflammable.—As it takes a longer time to heat a large body than a ſmall one, it follows that meal powder is more inflammable than that which is grained; and the ſmaller the particles are, the quicker they will take fire. The ſailors bruiſe the priming after they have put it to their guns, as they find it very difficult, without this precaution, to fire them off with a match: and if thoſe who are fond of ſporting would make uſe of a ſimilar artifice, and prime their pieces with meal-powder, they would miſs fire leſs often."

Mr. Thompſon alſo ſhews, in a very ſatisfactory manner, that the heat of the barrel of a piece is much greater when it is fired with powder only, than when the ſame charge is made to impel one or more bullets. And the objection that may be made to this from the circumſtance of bullets being found to be very hot, if they be taken up immediately after they come out of the gun, is eaſily obviated: for the ſame thing may be obſerved of bullets diſcharged from wind-guns, and croſs-bows, eſpecially when they have impinged againſt any hard body, and are much flattened; and bullets from muſquets are always found to be hotter in proportion to the hardneſs of the body againſt which they are fired. If a muſket ball be fired into any very ſoft body, as, for inſtance, into water, it will not be found to be ſenſibly warmed; but if it be fired againſt a thick plate of iron, or any other body that it cannot penetrate, the bullet will be demoliſhed by the blow, and the pieces of it that are diſperſed about will be found to be in a ſtate very little ſhort of fuſion. It is, therefore, not by the flame that bullets are heated, but by percuſſion. Neither is the running of the metal in braſs guns any objection to this opinion; for this, as Mr. Thompſon very properly obſerves,

proves nothing but that braſs is very eaſily corroded, and deſtroyed by the flame of gun-powder; for it cannot be ſuppoſed that in theſe caſes the metal is ever entirely melted.

'The vent of a muſket is very ſoon enlarged by firing, and after a long courſe of ſervice it is found neceſſary to ſtop it up with a ſolid ſcrew, through the center of which a new vent is made of the proper dimenſions. This operation is called bouching the piece; but in all the better kind of fowling-pieces the vent is lined, or bouched with gold, and they are found to ſtand fire for any length of time, without receiving the leaſt injury. But every body knows that gold will run with a leſs heat than is required to melt iron; but gold is not corroded either by the ſpirit of nitre, or the acid ſpirit that is generated from ſulphur, whereas iron is very eaſily deſtroyed by either; and that I take to be the only reaſon why a vent that is lined with gold is ſo much more durable than one that is made in iron. But it ſeems that iron is more durable than braſs; and perhaps ſteel, or ſome other cheap metal, may be found that will ſupply the place of gold and by that means the great expence that attends bouching pieces with that precious metal may be ſpared, and this improvement may be introduced into common uſe.

'This leads us to a very eaſy and effectual remedy for that defect ſo long complained of in all kinds of braſs ordnance, *the running of the vent*; for if theſe pieces were bouched with iron, there is no doubt but they would ſtand fire as well as iron guns; and if ſteel, or any other metal, either ſimple or compounded, ſhould upon trial be found to anſwer for that purpoſe better than iron, it might be uſed inſtead of it; and even if gold was made uſe of for lining the vent, I imagine it might be done in ſuch a manner as that the expence would not be very conſiderable, at the ſame time that the thickneſs of the gold ſhould be ſufficient to withſtand the force of the flame for a very great length of time.'

From a number of experiments made to try the effect of ramming the powder in the chamber of the piece, Mr. Thompſon draws this practical inference:

'That the powder with which a piece of ordnance, or a fire-arm, is diſcharged, ought always to be preſſed together in the bore; and if it is rammed to a certain degree, the velocity of the bullet will be ſtill farther increaſed. It is well known that the recoil of a muſket is greater when its charge is rammed, than when it is not; and there cannot be a ſtronger proof that ramming increaſes the force of the powder.'

His *new method of proving gun-powder* is alſo very ingenious and ſatisfactory, but of too great a length for inſertion. We muſt beg leave therefore to recommend the reader to the peruſal of the article at large, which contains a great deal of uſeful information, and, as a military man, does Mr. Thompſon great credit.

Art.

Article XVI. Account of a luminous Appearance in the Heavens. By Mr. Tiberius Cavallo, F. R. S.—This phenomenon, which ſeems to be different from the aurora borealis, was obſerved on the 27th of March, 1781, about half an hour paſt nine in the evening. At firſt, it had the appearance of a white light, which became gradually more denſe until ten o'clock, when it formed a complete luminous arch from eaſt to weſt. Such was the account given of it to Mr. Cavallo by thoſe who had ſeen it; but at a quarter paſt ten he went out of the houſe, and obſerved it himſelf. At that time it appeared to be an arch of about ſeven or eight degrees in breadth, extending from eaſt to weſt. Its weſtern part reached the horizon; but the eaſtern terminated at about 50 or 60 degrees above the horizon; to which it was nearly perpendicular.

Mr. Cavallo informs us, that the whiteneſs of this arch was much denſer than that of any aurora borealis he ever obſerved, though it did not caſt ſo much light upon the terreſtrial objects. The circumſtances in which it differed from the aurora borealis were, that it eclipſed the ſtars over which it paſſed; that its light, or rather its white appearance, was ſtationary, and lambent; and that its direction was from eaſt to weſt.

Article XVII. Account of an Earthquake at Hafodunos, near Denbigh. By John Lloyd, Eſq. F. R. S.—This ſhock was felt on the 29th of Auguſt, 1781, between eight and nine in the morning.

Article XVIII. On the Heat of the Water in the Gulf-ſtream. By Charles Blagden, M. D.—The gulf-ſtream is that conſtant and rapid current, which is obſerved along the coaſt of North America to the northward and eaſtward. It is ſuppoſed to be the effect of the winds, which blowing from the eaſtern quarter into the great gulf of Mexico, occaſion there an accumulation of the water above the common level of the ſea. In conſequence of this, the water is conſtantly running out by the channel where it finds leaſt reſiſtance, that is through the gulf of Florida, with ſuch force as to continue a diſtinct ſtream to a very great diſtance. Since all ſhips going from Europe to any of the ſouthern provinces of North America muſt croſs this current, and their courſe be materially affected by it, every circumſtance relative to its motion becomes an object highly intereſting to the ſeaman, as well as of great curioſity to the philoſopher.

It is remarkable, that the heat of the gulf-ſtream is found to be greater than that of the ſurrounding ſea; the water ſtill retaining a great part of the temperature which it had acquired in the torrid zone. From the obſervations made by Dr.

I lagden, he concludes, that the gulf-ſtream, about the thirty-third degree of north latitude, and the ſeventy-ſixth degree of longitude weſt of Greenwich, is, in the month of April, at leaſt ſix degrees hotter than the water of the ſea through which it runs.

Dr. Blagden obſerves, that, in croſſing the gulf-ſtream, very important advantages may be derived from the uſe of the thermometer. For, if the maſter of a ſhip bound to any of the ſouthern provinces of North America, will frequently try the heat of the ſea, he muſt diſcover his entrance into the Gulf-ſtream, by the ſudden increaſe of the temperature; and a continuance of the ſame experiments will aſcertain with equal accuracy how long the veſſel remains in it. Hence he will be able to make a proper allowance for the number of miles that the ſhip is ſet to the northward, by multiplying the time into the velocity of the current.

Dr. Blagden farther obſerves, that,

'Beſides the convenience of correcting a ſhip's courſe, by knowing how to make a proper allowance for the diſtance ſhe is ſet to the northward by the current, a method of determining with certainty when ſhe enters into the Gulf-ſtream is attended with the further ineſtimable advantage of ſhewing her place upon the ocean in the moſt critical ſituation: for, as the current ſets along the coaſt of America at no great diſtance from ſoundings, the mariner, when he finds this ſudden increaſe of heat in the ſea, will be warned of his approach to the coaſt, and will thus have timely notice to take the neceſſary precautions for the ſecurity of his veſſel. As the courſe of the Gulf-ſtream comes more to be accurately known, from repeated obſervations of the heat and latitudes, this method of determining the ſhip's place will be proportionably more applicable to uſe. And it derives additional importance from the peculiar circumſtances of the American coaſt, which, from the mouth of the Delaware to the ſouthernmoſt point of Florida, is every where low, and beſet with frequent ſhoals, running out ſo far into the ſea that a veſſel may be aground in many places where the ſhore is not to be diſtinguiſhed even from the maſt-head. The Gulf-ſtream, therefore, which has hitherto ſerved only to increaſe the perplexities of ſeamen, will now, if theſe obſervations are found to be juſt in practice, become one of the chief means of their preſervation upon that dangerous coaſt.'

Article XIX. Account of the Appearance of the Soil at opening a Well at Hanby in Lincolnſhire. By Sir Henry C. Engleſield, Bart.—The ſpot on which the well was ſunk is, we are told, nearly on a level with Lincoln-Heath, and conſequently much higher ground than the fen, which is diſtant above ſix miles. The ſoil is deſcribed as being uniformly a blue

blue clay; ſome parts rather inclining to a ſhaly appearance, and contained many caſts of tellinæ, a very little pyrites, and a few ſmall, but very elegant, belemnites, the uſual foſſils of clay. But what Sir Henry Englefield conſiders as very extraordinary, is, that through the maſs of clay were interſperſed nodules of pure chalk, apparently rounded by long attrition, and of all ſizes from that of a pea to a child's head. It is not known that any trace of chalk has ever been diſcovered in the environs.

Article XX. Aſtronomical Obſervations. By Nathaniel Pigott, Eſq. F. R. S.—Theſe obſervations were made in the year 1777, at lady Widdrington's houſe, at Wickhill, near Stow on the Would, Glouceſterſhire; and in the years 1778 and 1779, at the author's obſervatory, at Frampton-houſe, near Cowbridge, in Glamorganſhire. By ſix obſervations of Jupiter's ſatellites, compared to correſponding ones made the ſame days, Wickhill is found to be $1^{\circ}\ 29'\ 45''$ W. of Greenwich. And from thirty-five meridian obſervations of the ſun and ſtars, all agreeing within $12'$ from the mean, the latitude of Frampton-houſe is determined to be $51^{\circ}\ 25'\ 1''$ N. and its difference of longitude from Greenwich, found by comparing four immerſions and fourteen emerſions of Jupiter's firſt and ſecond ſatellites to correſponding ones made in other obſervatories, to be $3^{\circ}\ 29'\ 30''$ by the equator.

From hence Mr. Pigott obſerves, that the charts of the Britiſh Channel are extremely erroneous, and wiſhes that aſtronomical obſervations were made on the Somerſetſhire ſide, to be compared with thoſe he has made on the oppoſite coaſt, as it would be of conſiderable advantage to mariners.

'The rocks on the Welch coaſt, ſays he, which run obliquely ſlanting into the Briſtol Channel, render the navigation ſo dangerous, that each year affords the horrid ſpectacle of ſhips wrecked; and I am ſorry to add that the barbarous cuſtom of plundering theſe unfortunate veſſels ſtill ſubſiſts in all its inhumanity; at the ſame time it would be injuſtice to the gentlemen of the country, to paſs under ſilence their repeated endeavours to check this enormity; but hitherto their efforts have not been attended with much ſucceſs: it is due to humanity to make ſuch bad practices public, in hopes of exciting an enquiry, which juſtice and the honour of the nation call loudly for.'

Article XXI. Abſtract of a Regiſter of the Barometer, Thermometer, and Rain, at Lyndon, in Rutland, 1780. By Thomas Barker, Eſq.

Article XXII. Some Calculations of the Number of Accidents or Deaths which happen in conſequence of Parturition; and of the Proportion of Male to Female Children, as well as

of Twins, monſtrous Productions, and Children that are dead-born, taken from the Midwifery-Reports of the Weſtminſter General Diſpenſary: with an Attempt to aſcertain the Chance of Life at different Periods, from Infancy to Twenty-ſix Years of Age; and likewiſe the Proportion of Natives to the reſt of the Inhabitants of London. By Robert Bland, M. D.—The particulars to which the author appeals for determining the objects above mentioned, are taken from a regiſter which he has kept at the Weſtminſter Diſpenſary, from its firſt inſtitution, in the year 1774, to the preſent time. In this regiſter, he has carefully noted, 1. the ages of the ſeveral women; 2. the number of children they had borne; 3. the ſexes of the children; 4. the number of children they had been able to preſerve; 5. the place or country where they or their huſbands were born; 6. the accidents that attended, or were the conſequences of parturition; 7. the ſexes of the children delivered; 8. the number of twins or triplets; 9. the number of children that were deficient, or monſters; 10. the number of children dead-born, or (where the account could be procured with certainty) who died within four or five weeks from their birth.

From this regiſter Dr. Bland has compoſed ſeveral tables, which, with his comments on them, are worthy of attention. He begins with endeavouring to ſhew the proportion of difficult labours, and of the accidents or deaths which happen in conſequence of parturition. From his table on this ſubject, it appears that of 1897 women, 1792 had natural labours, not attended with any particular accident. Of the remaining number ſixty-three, or one in thirty, had unnatural labours. In eighteen of theſe, or one in a hundred and five, the feet preſented; in thirty-ſix, or one in fifty-two, the breech; in eight, the arms; and in one, the funis. Seventeen women, or one in a hundred and eleven, had laborious births. In eight of theſe, the heads of the children were leſſened, in four a ſingle blade of the forceps was uſed; and in the remaining five, in which the faces of the children were turned towards the pubes, the delivery was accompliſhed by the pains. One woman had convulſions about the ſeventh month of her pregnancy; in a month after which ſhe was delivered of a dead child, and recovered. Another had convulſions during labour; brought forth a live child, and recovered. Nine women had uterine hæmorrhage before and during labour: of theſe one died undelivered; another a few hours, and a third ten days after delivery; but the remaining ſix recovered: the puerperal fever ſeized five women, of whom four died. Two were ſtruck with mania, but recovered in about three months. In one woman,

man, ſoon after her labour, a ſuppuration took place, from the vagina into the bladder and rectum; this patient recovered, though the natural excretions continued to paſs through the wounds. In another woman the perinæum was lacerated to the ſphincter ani; a ſuture was attempted, but without effect: ſhe recovered, but is troubled with prolapſus uteri. Five had large and painful ſwellings of the legs, but recovered.

From the obſervations which Dr. Bland has made, he is inclined to think that the lower ſort of people recover more certainly after parturition, than women of higher ranks; at leaſt, that they are leſs ſubject to the puerperal fever.

The next table exhibits the proportion of male to female children, the number of twins, and of children that were imperfect, monſtrous, or dead-born. It appears, that of one thouſand nine hundred and twenty-three children, nine hundred and ſeventy-two were boys, and nine hundred and fifty-one, girls. Twenty-three women were delivered of twins, of whom ſixteen were boys. One woman was delivered of three girls. Eight of the children were imperfect, or monſtrous. Eighty-four were dead-born; and of theſe, forty-nine were boys.

Article XXIII. Account of a child that had the Small-pox in the Womb. By William Wright, M. D.—By the obſervations of the ingenious Mr. Hunter, in the Philoſophical Tranſactions, vol. LXX. and of Dr. Bland, in the London Medical Journal, vol. II. it ſeems to be evinced that the fœtus is capable of receiving the variolous infection in the womb; and this fact is farther confirmed by the paper before us, which relates to a female negro in Jamaica.

Article XXIV. Natural Hiſtory of the Inſect which produces the Gum Lacca. By Mr. James Kerr, of Patna.

Article XXV. Account of a phenomenon obſerved upon the Iſland of Sumatra. By William Marſden, Eſq.—This phenomenon was a prodigious quantity of fiſh floating on the ſurface of the ſea. Great numbers of them were at the ſame time driven on the beach, or left there by the tide, ſome quite alive, others dying, but the greater part dead. The kinds which chiefly prevailed were the cat-fiſh, and mullet. This phenomenon happened in November, 1775, after a ſeaſon which had been remarkably dry. Mr. Marſden hence gives it as a conjecture, that the ſea requires the mixture of a due proportion of freſh water to temper its ſaline quality, and enable certain ſpecies of fiſh to ſubſiſt in it. Of this dilution it had been deprived for an unuſual ſpace of time, not only by the want of rain, but the ceſſation of all ſupply from the rivers, the ſources of which were quite dried up.

Article

Article XXVI. Farther Experiments on Gold, made at the Macfarlane Obſervatory belonging to Glaſgow College. By Patrick Wilſon, M. A.—In the courſe of theſe experiments, Mr. Wilſon mentions a fact which is worthy of notice. He diſcovered that ardent ſpirits had the power of diſſolving ſnow, and of producing with it a freezing mixture.

Article XXVII. A general Theory for the Menſuration of the Angle ſubtended by Two Objects, of which One is obſerved by Rays after Two Reflections from plane Surfaces, and the other by Rays coming directly to the Spectator's Eye. By George Atwood, M. A. F. R. S.—In the well-known method of taking an angle by Hadley's quadrant, the two reflecting ſurfaces, uſed in the obſervation, are perpendicular to the plane of motion; the direction of the teleſcope, and of the rays paſſing between the reflectors being alſo parallel to that plane. But the inclination of the teleſcope, and of the intermediate rays, as well of the reflectors themſelves to the plane of motion, admits of an unlimited variety. And as a general theory to determine the angle obſerved by two reflections from the data on which its magnitude depends, without limitation or reſtriction, ſeemed applicable to ſeveral uſeful purpoſes in practical aſtronomy, Mr. Atwood has conſidered the analyſis of this curious problem, and has inveſtigated it in a very ingenious and ſatisfactory manner.

Article XXVIII. An Account of the Ophidium barbatum Linnæi. By. P. M. Auguſtus Brouſſonet, M. D.—This fiſh commonly grows to the ſize of eight or nine inches. It is to be found in the Mediterranean ſea, and in great plenty in the Adriatic.

Article XXIX. A farther Account of the Uſefulneſs of waſhing the Stems of Trees. By Mr. Robert Marſham, of Stratton, F. R. S.—In a paper publiſhed in the Philoſophical Tranſactions for 1777, he ſhewed how much a beech increaſed by waſhing its ſtem; and in the preſent paper, he endeavours to evince that the benefit of cleaning the ſtem continues ſeveral years.

Article XXX. Hints relating to the Uſe which may be made of the Tables of natural and logarithmic Sines, Tangents, &c. in the numerical Reſolution of adfected Equations. By William Wales, F. R. S.—The reſolution of adfected equations by means of the tables of ſigns, tangents, and ſecants, is a ſubject that has engaged the attention of ſome of the firſt mathematicians of the age. But none of theſe authors, excepting in a few particular caſes, have attempted to reſolve equations of more than three dimenſions, by this means; nor even theſe, without a great number of ſubſtitutions and reductions, which render

render the operation exceedingly troubleſome and laborious. Mr. Wales has extended the uſe of theſe tables much farther than has hitherto been done; and has reſolved, in a very ſimple and elegant manner, ſome of the moſt difficult equations which ariſe in the practice of aſtronomy, optics, and many other branches of mathematical learning.

Article XXXI. Experiments on the Power that Animals, when placed in certain Circumſtances, poſſeſs of producing Cold. By Adair Crawford, M. D.—It is one of the diſcoveries made in the preſent age, that animals have, in certain circumſtances, the power of keeping themſelves at a lower temperature than the ſurrounding medium. With regard to the cauſe of this refrigeration, different opinions are entertained; and for the purpoſe of determining it with greater certainty, Dr. Crawford has made theſe experiments; the arguments drawn from which, being connected with his theory of heat, formerly publiſhed, muſt depend for their validity upon the eſtabliſhment of that principle.

Article XXXII. Account of a Comet. By Mr. Herſchel, F. R. S.—Mr. Herſchel's abilities as a practical aſtronomer are ſufficiently known; and, as we are in expectation of another article upon this ſubject, we ſhall defer entering into particulars till we are favoured with the reſult of his obſervations.

Article XXXIII. A Leter from Mr. Joſeph Willard to the Rev. Dr. Maſkelyne, Aſtronomer Royal, concerning the Longitude of Cambridge, in New England.—The difference of meridians between Greenwich and Cambridge has been generally reckoned 4 h. 44′; but from the obſervations of Mr. Willard, on a ſolar eclipſe of 1766, the tranſit of Venus, in 1769, and the tranſit of Mercury in the ſame year, compared with correſponding obſervations made at Greenwich, it appears that the difference of longitude is 4 h. 44′ 17″, differing 17″ from that made uſe of by Dr. Winthrop, and other aſtronomers.

Article XXXIV. An Account of ſome Thermometrical Experiments; containing, I. Experiments relating to the Cold produced by the Evaporation of various Fluids, with a Method of purifying Ether. II. Experiments relating to the Expanſion of Mercury. III. Deſcription of a Thermometrical Barometer. By Tiberius Cavallo, F. R. S.

An Account of ſome Experiments on Mercury, Silver and Gold, made at Guildford, in May, 1782, in the Laboratory of James Price, M. D. F. R. S. To which is prefixed an Abridgement of Boyle's Account of a Degradation of Gold. 4*to.* 2*s. ſewed.* Cadell.

IT is not eaſy to form any deciſive judgment on this tract, for the real proceſs is concealed. The world will perhaps be ſurpriſed, when they ſee the viſions of the alchemiſts realized;

ized; and, in ſpite of demonſtration, as far as chemiſtry admits of demonſtration, that mercury may be actually changed into gold and ſilver, and the latter be enriched with a large proportion of the former. Experiments are related, in which theſe operations were repeatedly performed, before credible witneſſes; we need only mention lords King, Onſlow, and Palmerſton; Sir Robert Barker, ſeveral clergymen, and Dr. Spence. The materials were indiſputably genuine, either procured by the ſpectators, or taken indiſcriminately by them from ſuch large quantities, in the elaboratory, that there is not the moſt diſtant reaſon to ſuſpect impoſition in this part of the proceſs. All but the powder, which was added to the mercury, is well known; and this was furniſhed by Dr. Price. It will be at once obvious, that the powder muſt actually contain gold and ſilver; but the quantity of it was ſo ſmall, as to afford little aſſiſtance to this ſuſpicion. The increaſe of gold, in proportion to the powder added, was as 24 to 1, excluſively of the weight of the powder; and the increaſe of ſilver, as 28 to 1; but in the uſual methods of combination, this proportion of either actual gold or ſilver is entirely undiſcoverable, but by accurate experiments.

This is a very conciſe, and, we apprehend, an accurate ſtate of the facts; but wherever our reaſoning is directed, we ſhall find innumerable difficulties. Dr. Price aſſures us that the powder is wholly expended in theſe proceſſes; and that his health is ſo much injured by the operation, that he cannot repeat it. In this ſhall we admire the candour of the philoſopher, the ſelf-denial of the moraliſt, or the caution of the political projector? Every chemiſt, who is acquainted with the ſcarcity of mercury, will at once ſee that if it is frequently changed into gold, it will be dearer than gold itſelf; and the great end will then be, not to make gold, but quickſilver.—Let us, however, examine theſe proceſſes more accurately.

The firſt effect of the projection of this all-powerful creative powder was to prevent the evaporation of the mercury; and the effect, when triturated with it, was, to reduce it to the appearance of an amalgam. In the Acta Literaria Sueciæ 1731, there is an experiment by Dr. Brandt, which ſhows that a very conſiderable portion of quickſilver may be ſo fixed by gold, as not to be diſſipated by the moſt intenſe fires; this circumſtance make it probable that the powder which makes the gold is really a preparation of gold; and the only deſcription which is given of it, viz. the red colour, agrees with the colour of a precipitation of gold by means of tin. The powder which produces the ſilver is white. There is another ſubſtance frequently employed for augmenting gold, commonly called the

the Smiris Hiſpanica. It is deſcribed by Becher, as a reddiſh powder; and he alledges that the gold, thus augmented, will be pale and brittle, but will bear all the examinations to which gold is uſually ſubjected, except the amalgamation with mercury; and it is remarkable, that this teſt does not appear to have been tried with the newly-created gold. The Smiris Hiſpanica was probably a preparation, or an ore, of platina.

Theſe are the only views that we have been able to take of this curious ſubject: we mention them as they have occured, to excite the attention of ſome other chemiſts, whoſe leiſure and health may enable them to repeat the experiments. This tract is written in a lively elegant ſtyle, and is introduced by Boyle's account of an experiment, by which gold was degraded, by a ſubſtance only $\frac{1}{1000}$ part of its own weight. It is indeed true, as the author has obſerved, that every ſimilar fact gives a degree of probability to thoſe which ſeem extraordinary. He has, however, leſſened its power, by obſerving, that this gold was only *temporarily* degraded: it was not *permanently* changed; for, on cupelling, it was again, in a great meaſure, reſtored. Every chemiſt knows, that, in reviving any metal, ſome portion is conſtantly vitrified, or too intimately mixed with ſcoriæ, to be properly recovered.

The author's apology and defence may be beſt related in his own words; for our own parts, though we feel much philoſophical ſcepticiſm, we know not how to elude the ſatisfactory evidence which is given in this pamphlet. It is indeed ſuſpicious, that the author refuſes to repeat the experiment; and we know that Orfyreus broke his pretended perpetual motion, after he had exhibited it to a few philoſophers. But we muſt attend to our preſent ſubject.

'Previous to this publication the author has had frequent opportunities of hearing the opinions of many concerning its ſubject. Some ſay that they cannot account for the theory of the proceſs, and *therefore* that the fact is not true. Others aſk, if it be true, is it profitable? Illiberal minds ſuggeſt that the whole was a trick, and without knowing or enquiring what evidence it reſts on, modeſtly call the author a knave, and the ſpectators fools: and ſome heroes of incredulity, declare that they would not believe it though they ſaw it with their own eyes and touched with their own hands.

'To prejudice, avarice, or illiberality, perhaps no anſwer will prove ſatisfactory. But of the candid and impartial he ventures to aſk, by what arts of deceit mercury can be prevented from boiling in a red heat; as in Exper. II. or when actually boiling and evaporating, it could be almoſt inſtantaneouſly fixed by addition of a ſubſtance not above 1-480th of its weight, as in Exper. III.

'Metal

'Metal might (though not eaſily before twelve or fourteen ſpectators) have been ſecretly conveyed into the crucible, but this will not account for the event of Exper. IV. and V. where the ſilver was enriched with a quantity of gold eight times larger than the weight of powder projected, and yet the abſolute gravity of the mixed maſs remained the ſame, or rather ſmaller, than the original weight; which could not have happened had any undue addition been made. He may farther aſk (though this is not properly an argument with the public at large, but only with thoſe who know his ſituation) what could induce him to take ſuch laborious and indirect methods of acquiring ſiniſter fame, poſſeſſed as he was of total independence, and of chemical reputation.

'The author is too well aware of the ſtrength of prejudice to be at all ſanguine in his expectations of receiving credit; but the curioſity of the public has been ſo much excited, and his character ſo rigorouſly examined, that in juſtice to himſelf and compliance with them, he offers the following ſuccinct account of his experiments. An account which was read over to the reſpective witneſſes of each experiment, and of which he now publickly, as before privately, requeſts their confirmation, without the ſlighteſt fear of contradiction, or diſſent.

'He has endeavoured to give every poſſible ſanction to his proceſſes, by ſubjecting them to the minute inſpection and cautious examination of the ſpectators; whoſe rank and diſcernment confer as much honour on him as is reflected on themſelves by their liberality and candour.

'Whatever may be the opinion of the publick, it is previouſly neceſſary that they ſhould have the facts laid before them. And though he would be moſt happy to meet with belief, he ſhall not be ſurprized if he fails of obtaining it.

'With confidence therefore in his own integrity and reliance on their candour, he waits their deciſion, not void of ſolicitude, but without trepidation: the more confirmed by the recent honours with which the univerſity to whom he owes his education, have crowned his chemical labours.

'Her favours he thus publickly mentions, from a better motive he hopes than vanity; by them his ſcientific and moral character is placed beyond the limits, at leaſt of vulgar ſcrutiny: and he muſt ever remember with reſpectful gratitude, that ſhe enlarged her inſtitutions, to place him among her graduates at the inſtance of her medical profeſſors and with approbation of the academic ſenate.'

It may be neceſſary to inform ſome of our readers, that the preſent Dr. Price is not the celebrated calculator, the gloomy prophet of imaginary diſtreſſes. *He* has been employed in degrading the national wealth, not in augmenting it.

A Treatiſe

A Treatiſe on the Venereal Diſeaſe. By G. Renny, Surgeon to the Athol Highlanders. 8vo. 3s. *ſewed.* Murray.

THE induſtry of medical practitioners was not more diligently employed at firſt, in endeavouring to diſcover an effectual remedy for the venereal diſeaſe, than it ſtill continues to be exerted in the improvement of the method of cure. Almoſt all acknowlege mercury to be the grand and indiſpenſable ſpecific; and the difference of their ſentiments relates chiefly to the mode of its application; founded upon a diverſity in the appearance of the diſeaſe, and the various events which ſometimes ariſe in the treatment of particular perſons. It is extenſive obſervation alone that can determine the moſt ſucceſsful method of practice; and to the reputation of having enjoyed this advantage, the author of the preſent treatiſe, from his employment in the army, appears to conſider himſelf as entitled.

Mr. Renny ſets out with treating of the diſeaſe in its moſt ſimple ſtate, namely, that of the gonorrhœa; in which he endeavours to enforce the propriety of aſtringent injections, as the moſt expeditious and effectual method of cure.

In the ſecond chapter, he conſiders the inflammation of the teſtis. This complaint has been generally imputed to the ſtopping of the diſcharge in the gonorrhœa, from the too early uſe of aſtringent injections; but Mr. Renny combats this idea; and to the circumſtances which have been ſuggeſted by other writers, as primary cauſes of this inflammation, he mentions the neglect of ſuſpenſory bandages; the benefit ariſing from the uſe of which he has had particular occaſion to obſerve, in his preſent military appointment. In confirmation of this remark, he introduces the following narrative.

'Soon after my appointment as ſurgeon to a highland battalion, there were eight ſoldiers reported with gonorrheas at the ſame time, each of them was blooded, and ordered ſome cooling phyſick, being deſired to attend the hoſpital when off duty; the precaution of the truſs was however forgot, and in the courſe of a week five of them were attacked with inflammation of the teſtis; this at firſt ſeemed ſurpriſing, as I never before had met, in ſo ſmall a number of caſes, ſuch a frequent occurrence of the complaint; but on a moment's conſideration, the difference of dreſs, and the want of a truſs accounted for the whole, and though I was ſorry for the neglect, the occurrence pleaſed me, as it ſerved ſo fully to explain the cauſe of the diſeaſe, particularly when I aſſert as a fact, that in a hundred caſes of gonorrhea which I have treated ſince, exactly under ſimilar circumſtances of inflammation, by the

the attentive uſe of a ſuſpenſory bandage, although the ſoldier in the courſe of his duty was expoſed to cold, and pretty ſevere exerciſe, I never had one caſe of ſwelled teſticles enſuing.'

Mr. Renny afterwards proceeds to conſider more particularly the nature of this inflammation, and the various means to be employed in the treatment of it, which he relates in a perſpicuous and practical manner.

In the third chapter, the author treats of chancre, when unattended with any topical inflammation; and in the two ſubſequent chapters, of phymoſis and paraphymoſis; on all which his obſervations are judicious, and the practice inculcated rational.

In the next diviſion of the treatiſe, Mr. Renny beſtows his attention on the bubo, the method of curing which, he conſiders under the different heads of ſuppuration and repulſion, and enquires into the merits of each. On this ſubject, however, his opinion ſeems not to be ſufficiently preciſe and definitive. For, though he adviſes the repulſion of the bubo as the more eligible practice, he informs us, at the ſame time, that he has obſerved the method of curing it by ſuppuration to be more uniformly ſucceſsful; as a caſe ſeldom occurred, he ſays, where the bubo ſuppurated which did not end in a complete cure, and he has very often ſeen relapſes attendant on their repulſion. In vindication of this ſeeming inconſiſtency of ſentiment, our author makes the following obſervations.

'It is well known to ſurgeons who are converſant in this ſort of practice, that the principal obſtacle they find, for the moſt part proceeds from their patient, it being often exceedingly difficult to convince him of the neceſſity there is in continuing a courſe of mercury ſo long as to enſure a complete cure. This remark applies in a very particular manner to the diſeaſe in queſtion. For inſtance, I ſuppoſe the ſurgeon conſulted in the caſe of a buboe, and that he adviſes by all means to repel it; this is willingly agreed to, and in a few days, by following the directions which are given, the tumor ſubſides, and the patient is glad to find himſelf ſo near being well.—He is however aſtoniſhed when the ſurgeons tells him, the diſappearance of the ſwelling is far from being a proof that the venereal taint is entirely got the better of, and that it is only by allowing the mercurial courſe to be perſevered in for a few weeks, that will produce any certainty in the matter.—This is a language not eaſily reliſhed when every ſymptom of diſeaſe is gone; and though ſome patients may ſubmit

to

to our judgment, the greater number will follow what their preſent feelings ſeem to dictate.

'On the contrary, if the buboe is brought to a ſuppuration, it is a certain fact, that ſo long as any ſore remains unhealed in the groin, ſo long will our patient conſider himſelf as labouring under the complaint, and be willing to ſubmit to whatever is preſcribed. There is then a ſufficient time given for the adminiſtration of mercury, and the healing of the buboe at laſt, is a very ſure mark of the efficacy of the medicine, and will in general, under proper adminiſtration, give a complete certainty to the ſurgeon.'

In the remaining chapters, we meet with obſervations on the confirmed ſymptoms of the diſeaſe, and on the preparations and action of mercury, beſide ſix caſes, confirming the method of practice recommended.

This treatiſe deſerves to be conſidered as a comprehenſive and uſeful epitome of the theory and practice relative to the venereal diſeaſe; and while the author gives a juſt and clear delineation of its rational treatment, he advances many judicious obſervations on the different methods of cure.

A General Synopſis of Birds. By John Latham, F.R.S. Vol. I. Part I. and II. 4to. 2l. 12s. 6d. in Boards. White.

THE firſt part of this accurate volume appeared in the courſe of the laſt year, and we have lately received the ſecond. The author (Mr. Latham of Dartford) purpoſes to complete his work in three volumes; the firſt contains the order of rapacious birds and the pies; the accipitres and picæ of Linnæus. The ſecond will contain the paperina and gallinaceous tribes; paſſeres & gallinæ L. And the third, the cloven and web-footed, grellæ & anſeres.

We were contented to admire this tuneful race, without aiming at a farther acquaintance with them, except when the ſplendour of their plumage excited the admiration, or their flavour the appetite. Though they cheered our evening walks, we ungratefully deſtroyed or deprived them of their liberty, when they could add to the precarious ſenſuality of the glutton, or the more capricious fancy of the fine lady.—Linnæus has remarked, that double the number of ſpecies were known in his time than in the age even of Edwards and Reaumur; and four times as many ſpecies are now deſcribed as are contained in the laſt edition of the Syſtem of Nature. The attention and induſtry of this author deſerves praiſe; his opportunities for information have been conſiderable, ſince he num-

bers Sir Joſeph Banks, Sir Aſhton Lever, and Mr. Forſter, among his friends, and is well acquainted with the accurate and extenſive ſyſtems of Briſſon and Buffon. He appears to have profited by theſe conſiderable advantages, and has given us a very correct account of the two firſt orders. The plates which accompany the work are not ſo remarkable for their elegance as their accuracy. They ſeem to be indifferent etchings; but thoſe which are coloured are thought by the beſt judges to be beautiful.

This appears to be the firſt work which has contained the later diſcoveries in the South Seas; and in which the different ornithologiſts have been conſulted, without the narrow views of a rival, or the confined ſpirit of a recluſe partiſan. Mr. Buffon is generally diſtinguiſhed for his antipathy to the celebrated Linnæus, and his attempts; our countryman, Mr. Barrington, neglects often to give that information which he muſt have collected, and is more ſtudious to point out the minuter errors of the Swediſh naturaliſt. Mr. Latham carefully avoids competition; he has collected from every party, and ſeems to have had no foundation for preference, but accurate and extenſive information.

In the outlines of his ſyſtem he has followed Ray, who was at firſt indebted to Belon, a Frenchman, of Mans, who publiſhed his work in 1555. Belon's views, however, were not ſufficiently comprehenſive; and he was unable to fill up his great and extenſive outline, with equal preciſion in every part. Mr. Ray, and his pupil Willughby, improved that ſyſtem; and Mr. Pennant has continued to poliſh it. Our author commonly follows Linnæus in his genera; and very nearly in his orders: in this reſpect we think he diſplays his judgment and attention. The orders of Linnæus are in general natural: the new-diſcovered ſpecies are arranged, under them, with eaſe and exactneſs, which ſufficiently demonſtrates the propriety of the firſt diſtinctions. It is certainly true, that all diſtinction is a proof of the imperfection of our knowlege: the deficiency in the great chain are not thoſe of Nature, but of our attainments; and it is often of little conſequence whether a bird is arranged the laſt of a given order, or the firſt of the ſubſequent one. The *lanius*, for inſtance, is arranged by Linnæus under the accipitres; in Mr. Latham's work it is the firſt genus of the picæ. It agrees with the firſt in its food, with the ſecond in its manners; and, on that account, is very properly arranged under it. Our author, in this reſpect indeed, only follows the example of Mr. Pennant, and is equally attentive to this great naturaliſt, in the arrangement of his orders. Theſe minuter differences, however, we look on with indifference; they

they would be of conſequence in a ſyſtem which was in any degree complete, but the more important deficiencies which we frequently meet with, lead us to deſpiſe thoſe which are more trifling. We have often thought that, in the animal kingdom, particularly in the mammalia and aves, naturaliſts have been too eager in their advances towards perfection, and have neglected to give their ſyſtems that foundation which can alone ſecure their permanence. The formation of genera is the firſt ſtep in which we attempt to arrange natural bodies; we ſhould therefore proceed with the greateſt caution, and examine the ſeveral ſpecies with the moſt ſcrupulous attention. In this part of natural hiſtory, we need ſcarcely advance farther; the genera are ſo few, that we gain little advantage by any higher arrangements, except thoſe which Nature dictates.—There are ſome ſimilarities ſo pointed and ſtriking, that they ſhould be retained; the ſeveral genera ſhould be claſſed together, and ſhould form orders perfectly natural: the others, as in every natural method, ſhould be placed together till farther diſcoveries or a more intimate acquaintance ſhall aſcertain, with propriety and diſtinctneſs, their true ſituation. This ſeems, in fact, to have been the idea of the celebrated Linnæus, and the beſt apology for his mode of arranging his orders. If they are natural ones, it is of little conſequence in what order they are placed; and the anomalous genera, though they are not ſeparated, are generally diſtinguiſhed. Thus, for inſtance, under the genus of the Butcher bird, which we have before noticed, he adds, 'Lanii accedunt accipitribus lanienâ; picis, moribus; paſſeribus ſtaturâ; *adeoque inter hos medii.*'

We ſhall now take our leave of Mr. Latham, whom we ſhall attend with pleaſure, in his future excurſions; and be happy to extend our acquaintance with this ſplendid and tuneful race.

FOREIGN ARTICLES.

Storia Antica del Meſſico, &c. Opera dell' Abate D. Franceſco Saverio Clavigero. Tomo II. 276 Pages in Quarto. * Ceſena.

IN this ſecond Volume the author treats of the religion and political government of the ancient Mexicans.

The Sixth Book contains his Account of their Religion. They had a notion of a Supreme Being, to whom man owes a worſhip: this Being they thought inviſible, and denoted it not by any particular, but by a general name, Teote, or god, to which they added very emphatical epithets. Yet his worſhip was almoſt eclipſed or ſuppreſſed by that of a crowd of imaginary gods. That evil ſpirit, always miſchievous to man, they called Tlacatecolototl.

All the nations of Anahuac, except the Otomites, believed in the immortality of the ſoul, and aſſigned three different places for the

* See page 63, 142.

future reſidence of departed ſpirits. Warriors ſlain in battle, or as priſoners, and women dying in child-birth, in their opinion, went to the cabin of the ſun; and after four years of reſidence in that glorious place, came to animate clouds, and ſweet melodious birds of beautiful feathers. The Tlaſcalleſe believed, that departed nobles went to animate the moſt beautiful birds and quadrupeds, whilſt the poor were to be changed into reptiles and inſects. The ſecond place was aſſigned to the ſouls of thoſe who were drowned, or killed by lightning, who died of the dropſy, of ſwellings, and wounds, and to the children who were conſecrated to the water-divinity, Tlaloc: all thoſe went to the reſidence of the water-god, a ſweet cool place, abounding in victuals and delights. The Miztecheſe fancied that a certain cavern in one of the higheſt mountains of their province was the gate of paradiſe; whence all the people of diſtinction got themſelves buried in its environs. The third place was deſigned for thoſe who died any other kind of death. This place was their hell, ſituated in the center of the earth, with no other inconveniency but darkneſs.

According to our author, the Mexicans, and all the other nations in Anahuac, had a clear notion of the creation, of the great deluge, and of the confuſion of tongues; all theſe objects are repreſented in their pictures. One man, Coxcox, and his wife Xochiquetzal, ſaved themſelves in a canoe, which ſettled on the mountain of Colhuacan. They begot many children, who all continued dumb, till the faculty of ſpeech was imparted to them by a dove. That picture, however, appears either not to be ancient, or, which is yet more probable, the European interpreters ſeem to have transformed it according to their own purpoſes. The pretended dove looks rather like a hen; and as it holds a pretty large ſprig in her beak, how could it emit any ſounds?

The Mexicans had thirteen chief divinities, and two hundred and ſixty-ſix of an inferior rank; to all theſe certain days were conſecrated, and called after their names. They were all worſhipped by the nations in Anahuac, though all theſe gods were not celebrated alike. Then follows a minute deſcription and delineation of the great temple of the Huitzilopechtli, or Mexitlis, in Mexico: though the hiſtorians are by no means agreed with regard to its ſize. In this temple all the wants of the gods were amply and liberally provided for. He had aviaries and parks for the birds and beaſts that were to be ſacrificed to him; he had gardens for the flowers, in whoſe ſcents he delighted; and even a ſort of priſon, in which all the idols of conquered nations were confined.

The heads of ſuch commanders and nobles as were ſacrificed to him, were preſerved with their ſkins, beards, and hair, in towers deſtined for that purpoſe; whilſt common people were flead, and their ſkins only preſerved. The Spaniards are ſaid to have found one hundred and thirty-ſix thouſand heads; yet many victims were not compriſed in this number. The city of Mexico is ſaid to have contained near two thouſand ſmall temples, and three hundred and ſixty that were adorned with ſteeples. The author, however, cannot tell who has taken the trouble of counting them. In Chololla, Cortez himſelf is ſaid to have counted above four hundred ſpires of temples. The whole empire of Mexico contained above forty thouſand temples, endowed with very conſiderable revenues; with landed eſtates, with people appointed for their culture; and this fixed revenue was ſtill increaſed by daily and voluntary offerings.

For

For the ſervice in the grand temple of Mexico itſelf above five thouſand prieſts were appointed; and the number of the clergy in the whole empire is ſaid to have amounted to near a million of people. The whole prieſthood, except that of the conquered nations, was governed by two high-prieſts, who were alſo the oracles of the kings. Theſe high-prieſts were elected, but whether by the clergy, or by the electoral princes, who alſo elected the kings, is not known. Beſides the ſervice in the temple, the clergy were to inſtruct youth, to compoſe the kalendars, to regulate the feſtivals, and to paint the mythological pictures. But not all of them continued prieſts through life. The Mexicans had alſo prieſteſſes, but theſe were not allowed to offer up ſacrifices; many of them entered into that order for one or a few years only, in order to obtain good huſbands by their temple-ſervice. They likewiſe had monaſtic orders, eſpecially one, in which no perſon under ſixty years of age was received. Human ſacrifices were unknown to the nations in Anahuac, till introduced by the Mexicans, probably in order to exterminate the natives. Of ſome of the victims, the breaſt was opened and the heart plucked out; ſome were drowned, and others doomed to die fighting: the fortunate victim, who could encounter ſix Mexican warriors, and kill them all, was releaſed. The priſoners, when ſlaughtered, were delivered to thoſe who had taken them; who then took them home, and feaſted on them with their relations. If the victim was a ſlave, his maſter got his corpſe. The Mexicans ate only the legs, arms, and loins, the remainder was either burned, or preſerved as a proviſion for the ſacred birds of prey. In general, the number of human ſacrifices was proportioned to that of the priſoners at hand, and to the occaſion of the feſtivals. Our author thinks, that the number of human victims annually ſacrificed in the empire of Mexico, may, moſt probably, have amounted to twenty thouſand; and that Bartholomew de las Caſas was evidently miſtaken in eſtimating their number at ten, or at moſt at one hundred only. Beſides men, they alſo offered animals, birds, plants, and minerals. Nor were the Mexicans leſs cruel in the treatment inflicted on their own bodies by corrections, blood-letting, vigils, and faſting.

All the nations in Anahuac counted four ages of the world; the firſt from the creation to the great deluge; the ſecond, to the deſtruction of the giants, and to the earthquakes; the third, to the great hurricanes; the fourth, is to laſt to the deſtruction of the world by fire: at the end of every one of theſe ages, mankind is ſaid to have periſhed.

The Mexican ſeculum conſiſted of fifty-two years, divided into four parts, each of thirteen years: in general, the number of thirteen was a ſolemn and ſacred number with them. Two ſecula conſtituted an age; the Mexican year conſiſted of 365 days, and theſe were divided into eighteen months, of twenty days each month, of which every day had its own name; five days were added to the laſt month. At the end of every fifty-two years, thirteen days were inſerted. The author affirms againſt M. de Paw, that the Mexicans were not acquainted with circumciſion: and that their prieſts made only a very ſlight inciſion on the child's breaſt and belly. The feſtivals occurring in every month are here enumerated; ſome months conſiſted almoſt entirely of feſtivals.

Their marriage ceremonies form another article. When an Otomite found in the firſt night any cauſe of diſlike in the perſon

he had taken for his bride, he was at liberty to diſmiſs her the next morning.

The dead were generally burned; and with the kings, they uſed to burn alſo women, ſlaves, and human monſters. People of fortune were alſo provided with gold and proviſions for their journey to another world; Cortez found in one grave two hundred and forty ounces of gold.

[*To be continued.*]

FOREIGN LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

La Logique, ou les Prêmiers Developpemens de l' Art de penſer. Ouvrage élémentaire, que le conſeil prépoſé aux Ecoles Palatines avoit demandé et qu'il a honoré de ſon Approbation. Par M. l' Abbé de Condillac. 8*vo*. Paris.

THE author entertains a very high opinion of the tranſcendent merits and originality of his logic; and repeats it from beginning to end, that this is a logic very different from all other logics hitherto publiſhed, and that philoſophers are totally ignorant of what he now is teaching his readers. 'Cette logique, ſays he, ne reſemble à aucune de celles qu' ou a faites juſqu' à préſent. Mais la manière neuve dont elle eſt traitée, ne doit pas être ſon ſeul avantage: il faut encore qu'elle ſoit la plus ſimple, la plus facile, et la plus lumineuſe.' Such loud boaſts of ſuperiority and originality could not but rouſe the attention of ſome German philoſophers. On the ſtricteſt examination of the abbé's performance, they found a few original errors, miſtakes, and exaggerations, and a great deal of vanity mixed up with a number of truths hitherto taught in moſt logics, and indeed obvious to common ſenſe, and here only ſomewhat differently expreſſed. Indeed, the author himſelf ſeems to have had forebodings of ſome ſuch judgement of his boaſted performance. For, ſays he, 'Il eſt fort commun parmi ceux qui ſe jugent ſavans, de ne voir dans les meilleurs livres que ce qu'ils ſavent; ils ne voyent rien de neuf dans un ouvrage où tout eſt neuf pour eux. (Q. E. D.) Auſſi n' écris je que pour les ignorans.' Well done! for theſe will be fitteſt implicitly to believe in his great and wonderful promiſes of diſcoveries in logics.

It is really a matter of concern, that a writer of great and unqueſtioned talents and merits in other reſpects, ſhould by ſuch diſguſting effuſions of vanity leſſen himſelf in the opinion of men of ſenſe.

Neue Sammlung Phyſiſch-Oekonomiſcher Schriften; or, a New Collection of Phyſico Oeconomical Memoirs, by the Oeconomical Society of Berne. Vol. I. 334 *Pages in* 8*vo*. Berne. (German.)

M. Tſcharner's eulogy of the late M. de Haller, prefixed to this volume, will not prove unacceptable to foreign readers; on account of the anecdotes of the youth and domeſtic affairs of that great man.

This eulogy is ſucceeded by M. Gruner's prize-diſſertation on the beſt means for preventing damages by the torrents and rivers of Swiſſerland, eſpecially the Aar. Then follow extracts from ſeveral prize memoirs on the queſtion, whether the cultivation of potatoes is detrimental to that of corn: another diſſertation on the merits or demerits of the method of mixing two different ſpecies of corn in ſowing one field, in order at any rate to ſecure ſome harveſt at leaſt; another

another on the uſefulneſs of oxen in agriculture; the author adviſes farmers to uſe ungelded beeves, inſtead of gelded ones. Finally, ſome uſeful obſervations and practices in the management of bees, communicated by Mr. Gruner.

Schweitzeriſches Müntz-und Medaillen Cabinet, beſchrieben von Gottlieb Emanuel von Haller; *or, A Cabinet of Swiſs Coins and Medals, deſcribed by — de Haller. 2 vols. in 8vo.* Berne. (German.)

This valuable work contains not only accurate deſcriptions of all ſorts of Swiſs coins, with their reſpective intrinſic and nominal value, but alſo accounts of the cabinets and works in which they are found; ſhort hiſtorical and political illuſtrations, fragments of the hiſtory and the coinage of the ſeveral mints, and anecdotes relating to them; liſts of the maſters of the mints, &c. &c. and is illuſtrated with neceſſary plates.

J. G. Schloſſers kleine Schriften; *or, Schloſſer's Smaller Works. 8vo.* Baſil. (German.)

Containing letters to Mr. Iſaac Iſelin, on philanthropines, (a new kind of academies, eſtabliſhed of late years in ſome parts of Germany and Swiſſerland for the reformation and improvement of education:) on Mr. Iſelin's dreams of a philanthrope, with his anſwers; and two eſſays on the liberty of police, and on ſcoffing and enthuſiaſm; plan and fragments of an abſtract of an univerſal hiſtory for the fair ſex; ſketch of ethics; on toleration; a marriage-ſcene; on Chriſtianity; on the culture of man; on legiſlation; concerning duels; on the ſtatue erected at Straſburgh to marſhal Saxe; political fragments, to the author of the modern Menoza; a letter on Xenophon's Hiero; a tranſlation of Xenophon's Hiero and Plato's Alcibiades; Mr. Miller's remarks on Mr. Schloſſer's Eſſay on the Liberty of the Police. There is hardly one among this variety of eſſays but what contains ſome uſeful thoughts: one of the moſt valuable is the eſſay on the liberty of the police.

Ueber den Bildungs-Trieb und das Zeugungſgeſchæft; *or, an Eſſay on the informing Inſtinct (Niſus formativus) and Generation*; *by Prof. Blumenbach, of Goettingen. 87 Pages in 8vo.* Goettingen. (Germ.)

The reſult of careful enquiries and obſervations continued for ſeveral years, and well worth the attention of naturaliſts, phyſiologiſts, and philoſophers.

Della Morte apparente degli Annegati. 200 Pages in 8vo. Florence

A very careful and accurate enquiry into the nature of the death of drowned perſons, and into the moſt effectual means for reſtoring them to life, by ſignor Antonio Giuſeppe Teſta. The author allows that, under ſeveral circumſtances, water may enter into the lungs; that the reſpiration may ceaſe, the circulation of the blood be interrupted, and the blood accumulate in greater quantity in the head and breaſt; yet he diſputes all the inferences deduced from theſe ſymptoms for explaining the nature of the death of drowned perſons, and endeavours to prove that it is the phlogiſton retained in the lungs and mixed with external air that cauſes their death, ſince experience ſhews that air already breathed, and conſequently ſaturated with the phlogiſton iſſuing from the breaſt, puts a ſpeedy and certain end to the life of animals. He therefore conſiders the apparent or real death of drowned perſons as a natural conſequence of the precluded renewal of the air; and from the inſenſibility obſerved in all perſons drawn out for dead, from the water, he thinks it highly probable, that the inflammable air retained in the lungs

chiefly attacks the nerves, by degrees leſſens ſenſibility and irritability, and at length totally extinguiſhes them with life itſelf. According to this opinion therefore, a drowned perſon approaches to the term of his life only by ſucceſſive degrees: and, notwithſtanding the apparent defect of all vital motion, life itſelf and the activity of the vis vitæ ſtill continue in him for ſome time; ſo that, while the power of the organs of life, of beginning anew their motions, continues, the poſſibility of reſtoring a drowned perſon to life ought never to be deſpaired of; and that nothing leſs than ſigns of the putrefaction of the body can prove that life is entirely extinguiſhed; and that the reſiſtance, which the vital powers oppoſe to the operations of phyſical cauſes on the animal body, has already ceaſed.

Auſtria Sacra: Oeſterreichiſche Hierarchie and Monaſteriologie; or, an Hiſtory of all the Secular and Regular Clery in the Auſtrian Dominions, by Father Marian, Prof. of Greek at Vienna. Vol. I. containing the Hierarchy and Monaſteriology of Auſtria Anterior, or of the Auſtrian Dominions in Swabia and Briſgaw. 8vo. Vienna. (German.)

Though Auſtria Anterior is far from being one of the moſt conſiderable and beſt parts of the Auſtrian dominions, yet the clergy appear evidently to be (or perhaps now, *to have been*) even there by far too numerous: ſince in this hiſtorical account of the hierarchy and monaſteriology, theſe ſmall diſtricts only appear to have ſupported nearly one hundred abbies, convents, and nunneries, to the depopulation and impoveriſhment of the country. What then muſt have been their numbers, wealth, and effect in ſo many larger and wealthier provinces?

Some ſhort hiſtorical accounts of towns and diſtricts are interſperſed in this volume, ſometimes foreign to the author's ſubject: for inſtance, his obſervation, that the largeſt tavern-ſign in Europe, is to be met with in the city of Conſtance. The ſign is of iron; weighs 1500 pound weight, and is ſaid to have coſt 8000 florins; a ſtrange memorial this of vanity exhibited in a ſmall and poor town!

L' Art de la Voilure. Par M. Romme, Prof. Royal de Mathematiques à Rochefort, &c. 68 *Pages in Folio, with* 9 *Plates.* Paris.

The author has alſo publiſhed *L' Art de la Mature*, which, as well as the preſent publication, may be conſidered as the moſt accurate and complete treatiſe on theſe eſſential parts of naval architecture, maſt and ſail-making.

Code de Savoye, ou Loix et Conſtitutions de ſa Majeſté de Roi de Sardaigne. 2 *vols in* 12mo. Paris.

A work not only neceſſary for the Sardinian ſubjects, but intereſting for every foreigner, who wiſhes to become acquainted with the reſults of the late application of the art of legiſlation in ſeveral countries.

Opinion d'un Citoyen ſur le Mariage et la Dot. 8vo. Vienne & Paris.

The author treats of the inconveniencies and misfortunes attending too many marriages; of the origin and cauſe of theſe evils, which he thinks to find in the preſent laws of France; in the indifferent education of the young ladies of faſhion and wealth, and its conſequence, luxury, futility, and vice; and propoſes a law, by virtue of which no female whatever is, under any pretence or name whatever, to bring her huſband any fortune; and by which females are to be abſolutely excluded from all inheritance, legacy, &c. He explains the motives for this ſeemingly very hard law, its plan,

plan, and provisions; and contends by plausible arguments, that a variety of advantages would result from such a law to husbands, wives, morals, especially to population, and consequently to the whole kingdom.

Grundriss einer Geschichte der merkwürdigsten Welthændel neuerer Zeit; or, Elements of an History of the most interesting Events of modern Times. By John George Büsch, Prof. at Hamburgh. 8vo. Hamburgh. (German.)

The author begins with the reign of the German emperor Frederick III. His work is concise, instructive, sufficiently perspicuous for an abstract intended for a course of lectures, and in general not inelegantly written.

MONTHLY CATALOGUE.

POLITICAL.

An Address to the Landholders, Merchants, and other principal Inhabitants of England, on the Expediency of entering into Subscriptions for augmenting the British Navy. 4to. 1s 6d. Bladon.

IT ought to excite the regret of every lover of his country, that the noble example of truly patriotic munificence, lately set by the county of Suffolk, is likely to terminate in that district. The arguments advanced to discourage this laudable zeal, afford a strong proof of the weak subterfuges, to which men will have recourse, for evading the most beneficial public measure, when it calls for their pecuniary support. The subscription alluded to has even been represented as dangerous to the liberties of the nation; though nothing be more evidently ill-founded than such an apprehension. In the Address now before us, the author not only refutes, with great clearness and force, the various objections which have been raised against the propriety of such an expedient for augmenting the British navy, but endeavours to rouse the public virtue of the nation, by painting in the strongest colours the pressing exigencies of the state. Mean while, if the noble sacrifice, said to be made by one gentleman (Sir James Lowther) cannot animate others to proportionable contributions, it will at least remain a glorious monument of the insensibility of the age, that can behold without emulation an act of civil heroism, which deserves to be admired and celebrated to the latest times.

A Letter to the Right Honourable the Earl of Shelburne, First Lord of the Treasury. 8vo. 1s. Dilly.

Frothy declamation, and an utter contempt of reasoning and argument, characterize this publication. Instead of patriotism and public spirit, it exhibits melancholy discontent, peevish scurrility, and the licentious abjectness of faction.

A Treatise on Treasons and public Delinquencies. 8vo. 2s. Kerby.

The author of this pamphlet, after giving a general account of the nature of treason, proceeds to a detail of the several statutes

which

which have been enacted in regard to the crimes included under that denomination. To illuſtrate this ſubject, is the author's *profeſſed* deſign; but his ſecret purpoſe ſeems to be, to inſinuate the propriety of the application of thoſe laws, in the caſe of a certain perſon, whom he ſtyles an India-peculator.

Cui Bono? addreſſed to the People of Ireland on the Subject of Mr. Flood's Two laſt Speeches in the Iriſh Parliament. 8*vo.* 1*s.* Kearſley.

The deſign of this pamphlet is to invalidate the opinion of thoſe Iriſh patriots who contend that nothing leſs than an abſolute, poſitive renunciation, on the ſide of Great Britain, of all legiſlative authority over Ireland, can effectually ſecure the liberties of that kingdom. The queſtion is of ſuch a kind as may afford great ſcope for declamation, but hardly admits of argument; and turns entirely upon the liberal confidence which the latter of thoſe kingdoms repoſes in the public declarations of the former. This confidence, and thoſe declarations, will never, we hope, be violated by either party.

Account of the Views and Principles of that Connexion of Whigs, commonly called the Rockingham Party. 8*vo.* 1*s.* 6*d.* Hooper.

This Account appears to be drawn up by a perſon who is a zealous adherent of what he calls the whig-party; which, therefore, according to his repreſentation, is the only wiſe, only upright, and only perfect ſet of men in the kingdom.

Quodcunque oſtendis mihi ſic, incredulus odi.

The Criterion; or, Diſquiſitions on the preſent Adminiſtration. By Joſeph Williams, Eſq. 4*to.* 1*s.* Hookham.

In Mr. Williams's former production ('Conſiderations on the American War') he argued with great force as well as zeal againſt the independency of the colonies. It appears from the diſquiſitions before us, that he perſeveres in the ſame ſentiments; though it would be unjuſt to affirm, that, in reſpect of various other particulars, either his opinions, or the ſcope of his obſervations, are always clear and ſatisfactory. Too deſultory, in the preſent performance, to purſue his objects with ſteadineſs, and too abrupt to give his aſſertions the force of conviction, he rather bewilders than inſtructs; at the ſame time that we perceive a fundo good ſenſe amidſt the obſcurity which ſurrounds it.

The New and Impartial Univerſal Hiſtory of North and South America, and of the preſent Tranſ-Atlantic War. By Charles Henry Arnold, Eſq. 12*mo.* 3*s.* 6*d.* Hogg.

A diſh toſſed up of Tranſ-Atlantic ingredients, ſmoking hot, to pleaſe the taſte of credulity. *Qui vult decipi, decipiatur.*

POETRY.

Elegy on the Death of the Marquis of Rockingham. 4*to.* 6*d.* Bew.

A lamentation, ſaid, in the title-page, to be written by one of the marquis's domeſtics; apparently ſincere, but far, very far, from poetical.

The

The Death-Song of Ragnar Lodbrach, or Ladbrog, King of Denmark. Tranſlated from the Latin of Olaus Wormius, by Hugh Downman, M. D. 4*to.* 1*s.* Fielding.

Lodbrog, king of Denmark, flouriſhed, according to Olaus Wormius, in the ninth century, the terror of maritime nations, and the patriot-legiſlator of his own kingdom. He is ſaid to be the perſon who deviſed the mode of trial by jury; which ſome ſuppoſe to have been borrowed from him by the Engliſh king Ethelred. Tradition has alſo honoured his memory as the author of the original Death-Song; though it is, with more probability, aſcribed to ſome ancient Scald or Bard. After a long courſe of depredations, this monarch, we are informed, was made priſoner by Ella, king of Northumberland, who caſt him into a dungeon full of ſerpents, in which horrible ſcene he expired.

In a poem which could, without an apparent violation of truth, be imputed to ſo martial a prince as Lodbrog, we cannot expect either the mildneſs of a civilized mind, or the graces of refinement: but, inſtead of theſe qualities, we meet with the ſtriking features of rude heroiſm and ferocious grandeur, ſo characteriſtic of a warlike king, in a barbarous age and nation. Dr. Downman has tranſlated this curious fragment of antiquity with a degree of energy which deſerves applauſe; but the method of arranging the Engliſh and Latin ſections alternately, ſeems neither to favour the diſplay of his own verſion, nor the convenience of the reader.

Pleaſure: a Satire. 4*to* 2*s.* Debrett.

A dull nerveleſs attempt at ſatire, declaring pleaſure to be the ruin of the nation; and that there remains no hope of its ever being ſaved, unleſs by the abilities of Lord Shelburne.

DRAMATIC.

The Candidate; a Farce, in Two Acts. As it is performed at the Theatre Royal in the Hay market. By John Dent. 8*vo.* 1*s.* Stockdale.

This dramatic piece is founded upon a reverſal of the main incident of 'She ſtoops to conquer.' An inn is ſuppoſed to be a private houſe; in conſequence of which miſtake there enſues a number of blunders and double meanings, which, unleſs by the too frequent repetition of the artifice, is not unproductive of pleaſantry.

NOVELS.

Wilmot; or, the Pupil of Folly. 4 *vols. Small* 8*vo.* 12*s.* Lane.

Though this novel cannot boaſt of much ingenuity, it is diſtinguiſhed from the greater part of thoſe productions by one quality, that of not being immoral; a circumſtance particularly commendable in ſuch publications as are intended chiefly for the juvenile claſs of readers.

Friendſhip and Matrimony. 2 *vols.* 6*s.* Noble.

We are preſented with 'the Hiſtory of Emilia and Henry; of Lord and Lady P——, and of Frederick and Fanny; all now

firſt publiſhed from the Originals as found among the Papers of the late Henry Manuel, Eſq.' Theſe *valuable* papers, the editor farther informs us, were beſtowed upon him as a reward of his merit as a *conjuror*; a capacity, we muſt own, of which we had not ſuſpected him. How merit may be loſt to the world by too much modeſty!

The Fortunate Siſters: or the Hiſtory of Fanny and Sophia Bemont. 2 *vols.* 12*mo.* 6*s.* Noble.

A common-place novel, patched up in the very pink of inſipidity.

Anna: a Sentimental Novel. 2 *vols.* 12*mo.* 5*s.* Hookham.

This novel is written in a ſeries of letters, which, though not deſtitute of vivacity, are often diſfigured by affectation; and it wants that degree of probability, which alone can give due operation to fictitious narrative.

Les Delices du Sentiment: or, The Paſſionate Lovers. 8*vo.* 3*s.* 6*d.* Macgowan.

This is one of the many *miſnomers* which we meet with in our literary examination; for inſtead of *paſſion*, we find in it nothing but the dregs of prurient *inſipidity*.

DIVINITY.

A Sermon preached at the Chapel in Penzance, at the Ordinary Viſitation of John Lord Biſhop of Exeter, on Friday, July 19, 1782. *By Cornelius Cardew, M. A.* 4*to.* 1*s.* Rivington.

Mr. Cardew takes for his text theſe words of Chriſt to his diſciples, 'Ye are the ſalt of the earth,' Matth. v. 13. and endeavours to prove, that the apoſtles, and the miniſters of the goſpel, their regular ſucceſſors, have anſwered the high character given them by Chriſt; have contributed to reform, to purify, and to preſerve mankind from corruption, and have always been conſpicuous inſtruments of diffuſing wiſdom and knowlege through the world.

The learned and ingenious author ſupports theſe aſſertions by incontrovertible facts.

The Fear of God, the only Preſervative from temporal and eternal Ruin. A Sermon preached in Norwich, on the Evening of the Faſt Day, appointed by Government, February 8*th*, 1782. *By R. David.* 8*vo.* 6*d.* Hogg.

The author, from theſe words of Samuel, 'Only fear the Lord, and ſerve him, &c.' ch. xii. 24, 25, ſhews, by various arguments, that the fear of God is the only preſervative from temporal and eternal ruin; and ſuggeſts ſeveral uſeful and important reflections, which ariſe from the ſubject. But he ſeems to have forgot the office of a Chriſtian divine, and a preacher of peace, when he thus launches out into political invectives.

'Our brave veteran commanders by ſea and land are diſguſted by the ill treatment which they have received from men in power. Children in office are put over their heads; and every vile fellow

that chooſes, is ſuffered to put them in danger of their lives. Witneſs the trial of admiral Keppel, &c. &c. &c.

'We muſt not expect to make the ſame figure in Europe as we did at the beginning of this reign; but think ourſelves well off that we have eſcaped with life, when the veſſel of ſtate was conducted by ſuch wretched pilots!'

Obſervations of this nature ought to be cautiouſly avoided in the pulpit, as they have not the leaſt imaginable tendency to edify a country congregation.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Wedding-Day; or, Marriage delineated. With practical Rules for promoting Conjugal Happineſs. 12*mo.* 1*s.* Milne.

This is one of thoſe 'half formed inſects,' which continually diſgrace the preſs;—it is ſo wretched a compilation, that Ariſtotle himſelf would be at a loſs for its character. It is *all*, however, *about love* and *marriage*. Heaven defend us from *ſuch* weddings!

Principles of Free-Maſonry delineated. 12*mo.* 2*s.* Trewman, Exeter.

This is a collection of independent tracts and poetical pieces, which relate to maſonry. The reader who wiſhes to be informed of their more particular diſtinctions and their boaſted ſecret, will be diſappointed; for the preſent volume contains only, what the world already knows. The orations or charges on different occaſions, breathe a ſpirit of general philanthropy, candour, and piety; and, if maſonry is only a ſocial inſtitution, which unites mankind by the moſt endearing ties, by thoſe of brotherhood and charity, it deſerves every attention which the world can beſtow. We believe it was originally conſtituted with this view; and their decorations, which are thoſe of a very common art, and their language, which is borrowed from its ſublimer branches, ſerve only to characterize an inſtitution which might claim more intereſting emblems. If, however, it ſerves to diſtinguiſh them from others, in every thing but peace and a general good will towards mankind, we need not blame it; and, if human curioſity is ſo far excited, by the affectation of ſecrecy, as to increaſe the croud of votaries of an uſeful inſtitution, we ſhould join in the general applauſe.

It has been injuriouſly ſuggeſted that it encourages only riot and debauchery,—but this abuſe every ſocial meeting may participate: it is perhaps more important to obſerve, that their language ſometimes borders on profaneneſs. We cannot always excuſe the applications of maſonic language to the Deity.

The poetry conſiſts of anthems, ſongs, together with the maſon's prologues and epilogues, ſpoken at the Exeter theatre, of which Mr. Trewman is ſaid to have a ſhare. The latter are often entertaining and ſometimes poetical. The Muſes have deigned to viſit the banks of the Iſca; and, in this collection, there are ſome pieces which would not diſgrace their favourite poets.

Journal

Journal of Travels made through the principal Cities of Europe: wherein the Time employed in going from Poſt to Poſt is marked in Hours and Minutes; the Diſtances in Engliſh Miles, meaſured by Means of a Perambulator faſtened to the Chaiſe; Produce of the different Countries; Population of the Towns; and remarkable Curioſities in the Cities and Roads: together with an Account of the beſt Inns, &c. To which is ſubjoined a comparative View of the different Monies, and that of Itinerary and Lineal Meaſures, as well as the Price of Poſt-horſes in different Countries. Tranſlated from the French of M. L. Dutens, by John Highmore, Gent. with an Appendix, containing the Roads of Italy; with ſome uſeful Tables and Hints to Strangers who travel in France. 8vo. 5s. *in Boards.* Wallis.

This is a ſecond edition of an uſeful work. We cannot give the contents of it more ſatisfactorily than the author has done in the title page. The Tables, as far as we can perceive, are exact; or, if they have any fault, too little is here allotted for the general mode of travelling. A work of this kind we can only announce; it muſt be reviewed by an attentive traveller, on the ſeveral ſpots. The local remarks are generally pertinent; and the others, though ſhort, are often comprehenſive and ſatisfactory.

The account of the ſeveral ſtages has been attributed to the earl of Bute; but it is proper to inform our readers, that the property has been warmly claimed by Mr. Thickneſſe.

Collections for the Hiſtory of Worceſterſhire. Vol. II. Folio. 2*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* *in Boards.* White.

There is ſo little oſtentation in the title-page of this great work, that it does not even contain the name of the author, though the knowlege of this circumſtance was likely to create a favourable prepoſſeſſion of its merit. It may therefore not be improper to remind our readers, that the public is indebted for this large collection to Treadway Naſh, D. D. rector of St. Peter's in Droitwich, and proprietor of Bevereye, in the county of Worceſter*. The materials, we formerly obſerved, conſiſt of a general account of the reſpective manors, as delineated in Domeſday-book; copies of ancient grants and other deeds; number of families, genealogical tables, armorial bearings, patrons of benefices, liſts of incumbents, monumental inſcriptions, the rate of land-tax, the ſtate of the poor, and a variety of occaſional particulars. Dr. Naſh, ſenſible of the inconveniencies ariſing from the confined plan of a provincial hiſtory, has endeavoured, as much as poſſible, to render the work more generally intereſting, by delivering an explicit account of whatever ſeems likely to gratify curioſity, without the intervention of local attachments. In treating of Perſhore, we meet with ſome memoirs of the celebrated Samuel Butler, author of Hudibras, who was a native of this pariſh.

* See Crit. Rev. vol. li. p. 330.

The

The preceding volume having brought down the work, in alphabetical arrangement, to the letter H inclusive, the preſent begins with the letter I, and compriſes the whole of the materials which the author has been able to collect. It is an aſſemblage which required ſuch unwearied induſtry to effect, that nothing but the ſtrongeſt attachment to the county of Worceſter could ever have induced Dr. Naſh to engage in a work of ſo vaſt extent. But the labour of collecting is not the only means by which this reſpectable gentleman evinces the affection he bears for his favourite province; for he has enriched both volumes with ſuch a number of beautiful engravings, of various kinds, as cannot have been executed without a very extraordinary expence.

The Beauties of Great Britain. ſewed. 1*s.* Buckland.

Intended as a companion to Ogilby's Book of Roads; and containing a general account of ſome of the principal objects moſt intereſting to a traveller.

Fielding's Origin, Progreſs, and preſent State of the Peerage of England. 12*mo.* 2*s.* 6*d.* Fielding.

This little volume contains a general account of the Engliſh peerage; with the titles, ages, marriages, iſſue, and places held under government, by the preſent peers and peereſſes; the dates of their ſeveral titles; and an index to the houſe of peers, exhibiting the motto of each family. To theſe various articles are annexed engravings of the coats of arms. The letter-preſs part may be purchaſed without the plates.

A Metaphyſical Catechiſm. Containing a Sum of the Doctrines of Materialiſm and Neceſſity, as at preſent profeſſed. 8*vo.* 1*s.* Johnſon.

The deſign of this publication is to collect the doctrines of materialiſm and neceſſity into one view, and to exhibit them in their proper colours, without any palliation or diſguiſe. This, it muſt be confeſſed, is an arduous attempt, and requires the greateſt penetration. For ſome of theſe doctrines are abſtruſe and problematical; others are divided from contradiction and inconſiſtency by ſuch boundaries, as cannot be diſcovered by any but adepts in metaphyſical ſpeculations. In many caſes, where the reader ſtands, as it were, upon the verge of ſenſe, and fancies he has the image of truth before him, it is vaniſhed in an inſtant:

——— effugit imago,
Par levibus ventis, volucriſque ſimillima ſomno.

If this writer has, in any reſpect, miſrepreſented the doctrines of materialiſm and neceſſity, he is excuſable, for the foregoing reaſons, as he does not appear to be defective, either in candour or diſcernment.

Select Original Letters on various Subjects. 12*mo.* 3*s.* Printed for the Author.

Theſe letters are written by James Ripley, now, and for thirty years paſt, oſtler at the Red Lion, Barnet.

We find ſo much good ſenſe in this honeſt *ſtabularian*, that we heartily recommend both himſelf and his book to thoſe travellers who paſs through the town of Barnet; where we are determined never to bait our horſes, without enquiring for the literary hoſtler.

Hunting vindicated from Cruelty, in a Letter to the Monthly Reviewers. 8*vo.* 1*s.* Law.

We ſhall leave our Brother Critics to defend themſelves from this attack. We have already given our opinion of the humanity of ſportſmen; and ſhall not attend on this author, who poſſeſſes no merit to engage, even for a moment, our attention.

A Collection of Engliſh Exerciſes: tranſlated from the Writings of Cicero only, for School-boys to re-tranſlate into Latin, and adapted to the principal Rules in the Compendium of Eraſmus's Syntax. By William Ellis, A. M. and Maſter of the Grammar School at Alford in Lincolnſhire. 12*mo.* 2*s.* 6*d.* Robinſon.

The author of this work cenſures thoſe exerciſe-books for making Latin, which are filled with examples, taken promiſcuouſly from a variety of different writers; very juſtly obſerving, that ſuch a collection of incongruous phraſes, in proſe and verſe, is by no means calculated to give the young ſtudent a proper notion of an elegant and uniform ſtyle. He has therefore ſelected all his examples from the writings of Cicero. The Engliſh, which is a literal verſion of the Latin, is printed on the left hand page, and the words of the original, in their primitive form, on the right, in order to be altered in their terminations, as the rules of ſyntax require. The introductory ſentences are as ſhort and eaſy as poſſible, conſiſting only of one Latin verb; the reſt are gradually more and more extenſive. The young ſcholar is thus conducted, ſtep by ſtep, to a perfect knowledge of ſyntax, and a familiar acquaintance with the ſtyle of Cicero.

This plan is incomparably the beſt that has been propoſed for the inſtruction of youth, in the acquiſition of pure and elegant Latinity.

An Eſſay on the Management and Nurſing of Children in the earlieſt Periods of Infancy; and on the Treatment and Rule of Conduct requiſite for the Mother during Pregnancy and Lying-in. By William Moſs, Surgeon. 8*vo.* 6*s.* Johnſon.

This Eſſay is addreſſed not only to the medical faculty, but the public, with the view of rendering the precepts which it contains as generally uſeful as poſſible. The whole is well adapted to the author's deſign, and is founded upon principles correſpondent to what are maintained by the beſt authorities.

Genuine Memoirs of the Lives of George and Joſeph Weſton. 8*vo.* 1*s.* Walker.

Memoirs of thoſe who have been executed for their depredations on ſociety, have at leaſt a negative merit; as by laying open the ſecret arts and practices of villainy, they may ſerve as a precaution to the honeſter part of mankind. In this view, therefore, and in this only, ſuch a narrative as the preſent is not without its advantage.